

## Class of '09 Brass Rat Revealed, Hidden "08" Seen in Ring Design

By Swetha Kambhampati  
STAFF REPORTER

The Brass Rat 2009 Ring Premiere held last Friday evening marked the release of the design of the Class of 2009 Ring, which features several unique aspects, such as female and male signs on the beaver's pocket watch and an inscription of "punt," which can be read as "tool" upside down. In addition, the presence of an accidental "08" behind the beaver in the ring's bezel has posed a controversy.

The budget for this year's ring was \$70,000, marking an increase

of \$20,000 from last year's. Amy C. Gilpin '09, the Ring Committee treasurer, said that this is partially because of an increase in the cost of gold. The additional money will also go toward planning the Ring Delivery, the event where students receive their rings.

Arjun Naskar '09, the historian of the Ring Committee said, "The Class of 2007 ring had some controversy. So to balance that out, the Class of 2008 made a very traditional ring. We took a middle path that included a lot of the traditional features that have been used for the last four or

five years such as hacking, the motto 'IHTFP,' and 'punt,' and 'tool,' and gave it our own twist."

Regarding the controversy over the "08" on the bezel, Colleen P. Mosley '09, the Vice Chair of the Ring Committee, said, "We didn't even notice it. It was just the way that Walker and Building 2 were drawn. It was completely unintentional."

In addition to the controversy over the hidden "08," the 2009 ring committee also accidentally leaked

Ring, Page 11



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Sunita Darbe '09, Christopher J. Varenhorst '09, Danbee Kim '09, and C. Kiersten Pollard '09 (left to right) examine the newly-revealed rings after the Class of 2009 Ring Premiere.

## Fatal Levels of Sedative Found in Zhou's Autopsy

By Nick Semenkovich  
STAFF REPORTER

Toxicology studies for Mengyao "May" Zhou '04 found toxic levels of diphenhydramine, a sedative and antihistamine, in her system. Zhou, a Stanford University graduate student, was found dead in the trunk of her car on Jan. 25 of an apparent suicide.

Zhou's toxicology tests detected diphenhydramine at 6.15 mg/L, exceeding the "toxic range" of 1–5 mg/L, according to a Sonoma County Coroner's Office press release. Diphenhydramine is an ingredient in over-the-counter drugs such as Benadryl and sleep aids.

"No other common acidic, neutral or basic drugs [were] detected," the press release stated. "No blood or

urine ethyl alcohol [was] detected."

Despite the completion of an autopsy, the Santa Rosa police have not yet ruled on the cause of death or commented on the role of diphenhydramine in Zhou's death.

Yitong Zhou, May Zhou's father, is convinced his daughter did not commit suicide.

"Nobody believes she killed herself... just the police," he said to *The Mercury News*. Yitong Zhou also told the paper he was considering hiring his own forensics expert and exhuming his daughter's body.

Zhou's father has also questioned the source of the diphenhydramine, saying there are no receipts showing its purchase. "The tests don't mean anything if you can't find out where [the drugs] came from," he told *The Palo Alto Daily News*.

Yitong Zhou is also suspicious of the transfer of "a large sum of money" on the night his daughter died, he told *The Palo Alto Daily News*. "This means she didn't think she would die. Otherwise, why would she move the money?"

The investigation into Zhou's death still remains open.



ROBERT C. GENS

Hackers placed a large yellow crank on the side of the Media Lab on Sunday, in the style of the crank that powers the "One Laptop Per Child" laptops that were developed at the lab. Smaller cranks were "installed" on various objects across campus. According to the hackers, between ninety and one hundred of the smaller cranks were deployed.

### In Short

¶ **Professor Victor Zue** will become sole director of the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory lab, effective July 1. Zue has been co-director of CSAIL since 2003.

¶ **Tomorrow's faculty meeting** will include more discussion on the Report from the Task Force on the Undergraduate Education Commons. A "New Initiative on Racial Diversity" is also on the agenda. The meeting will be at 3:30 p.m. in the Stata Center (Room 32-123).

Send news information and tips to  
news@the-tech.mit.edu.

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WORLD & NATION

Taliban Seize District in Southwest Afghanistan

By Abdul Waheed Wafa  
THE NEW YORK TIMES KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

Taliban insurgents seized control of a district in southwestern Afghanistan on Monday as the Afghan police abandoned their post and fled, officials said. The district is the second to fall into Taliban hands this month, and its capture underlines the precarious hold of the government and NATO troops in the remote districts of southern Afghanistan.

The midmorning attack occurred in the Baqwa district of Farah province, where few NATO or Afghan troops are deployed. A small number of U.S. soldiers run a reconstruction team in the provincial capital, but the districts are left to the local police, who lack staff and weapons.

The police in Baqwa town warned their provincial headquarters that the Taliban were advancing in such large numbers they could not hold the district office, according to Baryalai Khan, the secretary to the provincial police chief.

Foreign Minister of Colombia Quits in Scandal

By Simon Romero  
THE NEW YORK TIMES CARACAS, VENEZUELA

The foreign minister of Colombia resigned Monday as the government of President Alvaro Uribe, the Bush administration's closest ally in South America, struggled with a scandal that has revealed ties between paramilitary cocaine-trafficking squads and some of Uribe's most prominent political supporters.

The resignation of Foreign Minister Maria Consuelo Araujo came just days after Uribe expressed support for her. But fallout from the arrest last week of five politicians including her brother, Sen. Alvaro Araujo, on charges of working with paramilitary squads in a kidnapping case related to the scandal, made her presence in the Cabinet untenable.

Hours after the resignation, the president named Fernando Araujo, who recently escaped after six years in rebel captivity, to replace Maria Araujo. The two are not related.

President Bush, who is scheduled to visit Colombia in March, has stood by Uribe, in part to counter the enhanced regional influence of President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela.

Airlines Sharpen Sites For Web-Savvy Traveler

By Joe Sharkey  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

About \$170 billion is spent each year on business travel in the United States. Nearly 90 percent of that is "managed" that is, booked by corporate departments — in-house or under contract with a travel management company, or both.

Managed programs have one great advantage: volume. They negotiate significant discounts with specific airlines, hotels and car rental companies in exchange for a guaranteed amount of business.

In such companies, there is pressure for employees to book "within policy." While this saves the company money, it also limits the control individual employees have over their travel. For example, you may want to earn your elite-status frequent flier miles on American Airlines and stay at a Hilton hotel brand to get your points. But your company may have discount deals with United Airlines and Hyatt, or other combinations.

While some companies offer flexibility, basically you're out of luck if your needs and the travel department's don't mesh. On the other hand, as noted here last week, there is the rapidly growing business-travel market of small companies, independent contractors and others who can't negotiate volume discounts.

Guinean Government Enacts Martial Law to Quell Uproar

By Lydia Polgreen  
THE NEW YORK TIMES CONAKRY, GUINEA

For most Guineans, the last straw came two months ago.

On Dec. 16, Guinea's president, Lansana Conte, went to a city jail to liberate two of his close associates: Guinea's wealthiest businessman and a former top official of the central bank.

That the two had been locked up in the first place, on charges of embezzling \$2.6 million of public money, had come very much as a surprise to the long-suffering Guinean people, who have labored in abysmal poverty under the yoke of authoritarian rule for their entire post-colonial history.

Typically such high-level theft went unpunished, if not unnoticed by civil servants, farmers, laborers and students, most of whom get by on less than a dollar a day.

But locking them up, then personally letting them go, was going too far.

"He sent us a message," said Antoine Bangoura, a secretary struggling to live on his \$30-a-month government salary. "The government doesn't care about us. So we sent a

message back. We want change. Conte must go."

Since that December day, Guinea has been racked by rising unrest. Strikes, riots and a brutal military crackdown have killed scores of people in the past month and crippled the country's already feeble economy. The president declared martial law on Feb. 12, and the situation has reached a smoldering stalemate, with growing calls for Conte to step down.

Across Africa, autocracy and one-party rule have slowly yielded to open, multiparty democracy. Guinea, one of the last bastions of one-man-rule, now seems on the verge of insurrection. No one knows what kind of change will come — a military coup, a people's uprising, a brutal civil war or some grim combination.

"We all want change," said Jean-Marie Dore, leader of the Union for the Progress of Guinea, an opposition political party. "The question is how this change will come."

On Sunday, the government eased a 6 p.m. to noon curfew, to 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., and the tension on the streets eased slightly after a week of martial law that had kept most people indoors.

But little progress has been made on talks between the government and the labor unions. The government has insisted that the strike must be ended before martial law is lifted, while the unions say martial law must end before negotiations can resume.

At one of Conakry's two main hospitals, the fetid wards are full of people shot and beaten by security forces during the brutal crackdown. Siaka Konneh lay on a stretcher on the floor, his eyes covered with bandages. He had been trying to deliver oxygen tanks a week before when he got caught in a volley of gunfire.

"I hear the gunshot — pow! — and my two eyes had been closed," he said, speaking in the English patois he picked up during years spent in neighboring Liberia. "I no see anything again."

Konneh, who is 37 and supports six children, four of his own and two of his dead brothers', said he blamed the president for his desperate situation and the country's malaise.

"What he done is not good for we people," he said. "That man gone spoil my life. My children, who will feed them? I am just praying God the man move."

Violent Algerian Group Plans to Unite North African Extremists

By Craig S. Smith  
THE NEW YORK TIMES TUNIS, TUNISIA

The plan, hatched for months in the arid mountains of North Africa, was to attack the U.S. and British embassies here. It ended in a series of gunbattles in January that killed a dozen militants and left two Tunisian security officers dead.

But the most disturbing aspect of the violence in this normally placid, tourist-friendly nation is that it came from across the border in Algeria, where an Islamic terrorist organization has vowed to unite radical Islamic groups across North Africa.

Counterterrorism officials on three continents say the trouble in Tunisia is the latest evidence yet that a brutal Algerian group with a long history of violence is acting on its promise: to organize extremists across North Africa and join the remnants

of al-Qaida into a new international force for jihad.

Last week, the group claimed responsibility for seven nearly simultaneous bombings that destroyed police stations in towns east of Algiers, the Algerian capital, killing six people.

This article was prepared from interviews with U.S. government and military officials, French counterterrorism officials, Italian counterterrorism prosecutors, Algerian terrorism experts, Tunisian government officials and a Tunisian attorney working with Islamists charged with terrorist activities.

They say North Africa, with its vast, thinly governed stretches of mountain and desert, could become an Afghanistan-like terrorist hinterland within easy striking distance of Europe. That is all the more alarming because of the deep roots that North African communities have in Europe

and the ease of travel between the regions. For the United States, the threat is also real because of visa-free travel to U.S. cities for most European passport holders.

The violent Algerian group the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, known by its French initials GSPC, has for several years been under U.S. watch.

"The GSPC has become a regional terrorist organization, recruiting and operating in all of your countries — and beyond," Henry A. Crumpton, then-U.S. ambassador at large for counterterrorism, said at a counterterrorism conference in Algiers last year. "It is forging links with terrorist groups in Morocco, Nigeria, Mauritania, Tunisia and elsewhere."

Officials say the group is funneling North African fighters to Iraq, but is also turning militants back toward their home countries.

WEATHER

Giant Frogs! Giant Frogs!

By Tim Whitcomb  
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

In the midst of several cold spells that have brought temperatures around 10°F cooler than climatology, as well as the first major snowstorm of the year, we are looking at some incoming precipitation that presents a bit of a challenge.

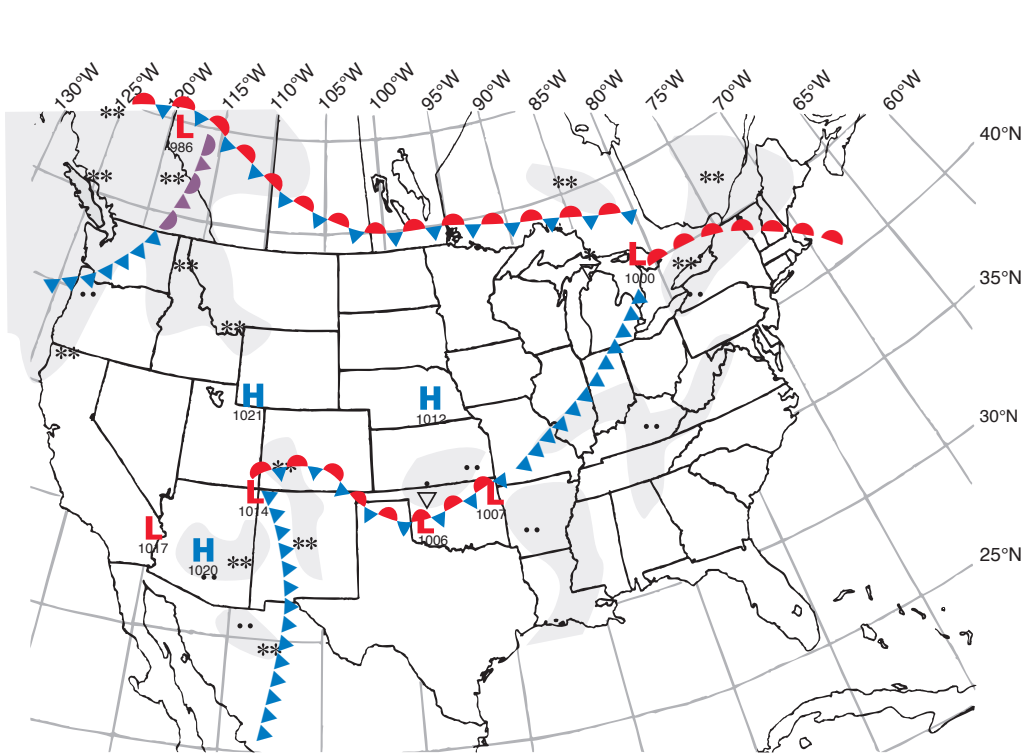
The placement of the line between rain and snow at the surface can be difficult for forecasters. The uncertainties in this are visible for the next few days over New England. For the Boston metro area, we are expecting rain in the afternoon, transitioning into snow through the evening and into the night. The cloudiness should also help keep the overnight temperatures elevated.

Extended Forecast

**Today:** Warming up, but still cloudy - maybe some rain. High 42°F (6°C).  
**Tonight:** More rain, moving to non-accumulating snow. Low 35°F (2°C).  
**Tomorrow:** Should see some sun, but blustery. High 43°F (6°C).  
**Thursday:** Might snow. High 37°F (3°C).

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols	Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure	--- Trough	Snow * Rain •	☁ Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure	— Warm Front	Showers ∇ Light *	⚡ Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	▲ Cold Front	Moderate ** Heavy ***	∞ Haze
	▲ Stationary Front		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and The Tech

Situation for Noon Eastern Standard Time, Tuesday, February 20, 2007



# India, Pakistan Vow That Train Blast Will Not Affect Relations

By **Somini Sengupta**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

DIWANA, INDIA

A day after two homemade bombs killed at least 66 people on a train traveling to Pakistan from India, the governments of both countries on Monday condemned the attack and pledged that it would not deter their aim of reducing longstanding hostilities on the subcontinent.

The office of Manmohan Singh, the Indian prime minister, on Monday morning called the bombing “an act of terror” and promised to apprehend those responsible. Pakistan also swiftly denounced the attack, which occurred on the eve of a visit by Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, the Pakistani foreign minister, to the Indian capital, and two weeks before officials from both countries were to meet for the first time to share information on terrorism-related activities.

The bombs exploded at midnight Sunday, trapping slumbering passengers aboard the Attari Express in flames, and by the time the bodies were pulled out of the train, which had carried more than 600 passengers from New Delhi to the India-Pakistan

border, they were thoroughly burned and identification was difficult.

All told, 66 bodies were taken out of two burned-out compartments; 13 survivors somehow escaped. Twelve hours later, the two coaches were still smoldering.

Peace talks between India and Pakistan have crawled along for three years, yielding little more than an accord on transportation links like the Attari Express. The two last stepped close to the brink of war in early 2002. They have fought each other in three wars since independence from British rule in 1947.

“This is an act of sabotage,” Laloo Prasad Yadav, the Indian railroad minister, told reporters in the eastern city of Patna, according to wire service reports. “This is an attempt to derail the improving relationship between India and Pakistan.”

In a statement reported by Reuters, Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani president, said, “We will not allow elements which want to sabotage the ongoing peace process to succeed in their nefarious designs.”

The overnight train from Delhi to the border post at Attari began service

30 years ago, and after a two-year suspension at a time of acute enmity between India and Pakistan, resumed service in January 2004. From Attari, passengers board a second train, which takes them to Lahore, in Pakistan.

The explosions occurred when the train had advanced about a mile from Diwana, a tiny station here surrounded by wheat fields.

Three other bombs were found in the train’s other coaches, according to police and railroad officials; a police officer at the scene said he saw a suitcase packed with eight or nine bottles filled with an unknown liquid, along with a detonator.

V.K. Duggal, the home secretary, told reporters that sulfur and kerosene had probably been used.

Yadav, the railroad minister, said Monday evening that one person had been detained in connection with the blasts, according to Reuters, but offered no further details.

Navtej Sarna, a spokesman for the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, told reporters that visas would be issued to Pakistani relatives of those who were feared dead.

# Suicide Bombers Attack American Combat Outpost, Killing Soldiers

By **Marc Santora**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

In a coordinated assault on an American combat outpost north of Baghdad on Monday, suicide bombers drove three cars laden with explosives into the base, killing two American soldiers and wounding at least 17 more, according to witnesses and the American military.

The brazen and highly unusual attack, which was followed by fierce gun battles and a daring evacuation of the wounded Americans by helicopter, came on a day of violence across the country that left more than 40 people dead in shootings, suicide bombings, mortar attacks and roadside explosions.

The violence was directed at civilians, Americans and the Iraqi security forces.

Many of the attacks north of Baghdad were conducted by Sunni militants, possibly seeking a firmer hold on havens outside of Baghdad as American and Iraqi troops flood the streets here in an attempt to stem the bloodshed, according to American and Iraqi military officials.

A family of thirteen was slaughtered on the road leading Fallujah, 12 miles northwest of Baghdad, because they belonged to a tribe known to oppose the actions of al-Qaida in Iraq, according to witnesses. The family, including an elderly woman and two small boys, was dragged out of an Akia minibus, lined up in the middle of the road, and shot. The executions took place in full view of others on the road, where traffic was stopped, witnesses said.

The dead lay on the highway for hours because people were afraid they would be ambushed if they collected the bodies, witnesses said.

The assault on the American base, located in the heart of a town called Tarmyia, was unusual because militants have largely avoided attacking heavily fortified American positions directly. Instead, over the past year, they have generally fired mortar rounds from a distance, or used snipers to wait for targets of opportunity, or planted improvised explosive devices on roads frequented by soldiers.

The posts of the Iraqi army and police, however, have frequently come under direct assault, especially

in areas where Sunni militants have been strong.

With American troops now moving into similarly small combat outposts in Baghdad neighborhoods for the first time since the early months after the invasion, the attack in Tarmyia underscored the risks they face.

Americans had only occupied the outpost in Tarmyia for three months, residents said. They took over control after the collapse of the local police force, following a campaign of intimidation by al-Qaida in Iraq. Tarmyia residents interviewed about Monday’s events, who spoke only on condition that they not be named, would not go into detail about al-Qaida’s tactics, but in other Sunni cities north of Baghdad, the group has been brutal, using public killings to ensure that the civilians do not challenge them or work with the Americans.

An American military official confirmed that there has been no Iraqi police presence in Tarmyia, a city of 25,000, since December.

The American outpost, located in the abandoned police headquarters in center of the town, was fortified by large blast walls.

# Talks Between Israeli and Palestinian Leaders Show Little Promise of Peace

By **Helene Cooper**  
and **Steven Erlanger**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

JERUSALEM

An American-sponsored meeting between Israeli and Palestinian leaders meant to start a new peace initiative after six years ended Monday with little more concrete than a promise to meet again.

For most of its period in office, the Bush administration has kept a hands-off stance in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, but the meeting was evidence of a new commitment by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to try to improve a deteriorating situation.

Rice and her aides made it clear that her efforts had been complicated by the recent decision in principle of the Palestinian Authority president, Mahmoud Abbas, to bring his Fatah faction into a unity government with Hamas, which Israel, the United States and the European Union consider a terrorist organization.

She suggested that if this meeting had not been scheduled beforehand,

the Israeli prime minister, Ehud Olmert, might not have agreed to meet with Abbas, whom she praised nevertheless for supporting international and Israeli demands that the Palestinians recognize Israel’s right to exist, forswear violence and accept previously negotiated agreements with the Israelis.

Although Hamas has not agreed to any of those requirements, a new unity government may come closer to meeting them than the Hamas movement itself. But Rice said she doubted that such a government would come close enough to satisfy the Americans and the Israelis.

The joint statement read by Rice after two hours of talks on Monday with Olmert and Abbas was vague. The two men “discussed their views of the diplomatic and political horizon,” the statement said, and agreed to meet again soon.

Neither Olmert nor Abbas appeared by Rice’s side as she read the statement, reflecting the tenuous nature of the talks, which appear to be so fragile that no side has even been willing to label them negotiations.

One American official called them “an informal dialogue,” and the official statement referred to them simply as efforts.

The commitment from Olmert to meet again with Abbas is a minor victory for Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, because it signals that Israel will continue to deal with him despite his unity government plans.

Olmert said later: “There will be a dialogue, and we will continue the communication channel with Abu Mazen. We will not accept a situation in which we have no channels of communication with the Palestinian public, as I think this will be a dire mistake, all this without compromising over the principle we have established: not to conduct ties or acknowledge institutions that fail to endorse the basic principles which are the foundation to any future dealings.”

A top Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat, said Abbas had agreed to the unity government deal, signed in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, to end weeks of deadly fighting between Hamas and Fatah.

## After a Delicately Worded Pitch, Clinton Draws Cheers

By **Patrick Healy**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

COLUMBIA, S.C.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton told an audience of black voters on Monday that they would be “breaking barriers” if they supported her for president in 2008 — deliberately signaling that they could still take pride in making history if they chose a woman over one of their own, Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois.

It was a delicately worded pitch — she did not mention Obama by name — and it drew applause. Another remark, that “anyone can be president,” set off an ecstatic standing ovation.

Afterward, several black voters said they would support Clinton on the merits, and postpone a vote for Obama until a future presidential election, once he had more experience.

The two Democrats, rivals for the party’s presidential nomination, were both in South Carolina this holiday weekend competing for the support of blacks, who cast almost half of the votes in the Democratic primary here in 2004.

South Carolina is scheduled to be fourth in the string of nominating primaries and caucuses for the 2008 race.

Clinton’s task here became more complicated last week when one of her prominent black supporters, state Sen. Robert Ford of South Carolina, said that nominating Obama would be a disaster.

“Every Democrat running on that ticket next year would lose because he’s black and he’s top of the ticket,” said Ford, who is black.

## Italy Won’t Block Spanish Bid For a Stake in Telecom Italia

By **Eric Sylvers**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

MILAN, ITALY

Just months after the Italian infrastructure minister, Antonio Di Pietro, blocked a Spanish company seeking to buy the largest toll road company in Italy, he indicated Monday that he would not block Spanish acquisition of a large stake in Telecom Italia.

Pirelli, which controls Telecom Italia through a holding company, Olimpia, said last week that it had held talks with Telefonica of Spain and that the Spanish company might buy a significant stake in Olimpia.

Di Pietro, with the backing of the government of Prime Minister Romano Prodi, succeeded last year in keeping Abertis Infraestructuras of Spain from buying Autostrade, which controls the majority of Italy’s toll roads.

“We are European and as such we don’t impose any limits on the ownership of the telephone company by Italians or foreigners,” Di Pietro said.

“The issue is that a foreigner can’t just come to Italy and start buying up companies,” he added. “One must consider industrial plans, proposed investments and the trustworthiness of the investors.”

While Di Pietro’s comments might leave the door ajar for Telefonica and other potential foreign investors looking to make acquisitions in Italy, it is likely to be years before foreigners have a free hand in buying what are considered to be strategic Italian companies, according to financial experts.

## Spitzer Puts Stamp on a Casino In the Catskills Run by Tribe

By **Charles V. Bagli**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Gov. Eliot Spitzer has approved plans for a \$600 million Las Vegas-style casino in the Catskill Mountains for the St. Regis Mohawk tribe and agreed to lead the effort to gain federal approval — the biggest leap yet in a 30-year struggle to bring gambling to the faded resort area.

The governor signed a letter on Sunday concurring with an initial federal determination made in 2000 that the proposed casino at the Monticello Raceway would benefit the Mohawks and the residents of Sullivan County. He and the three governing chiefs of the Mohawks also signed a gambling compact that would provide the New York state government with up to 25 percent of the annual revenues from 3,500 slot machines at the casino, an amount estimated at well more than \$100 million a year.

Proponents contend that the casino would revive the economy of the old Borscht Belt, attracting 6 million visitors a year and generating 3,000 jobs and tens of millions of dollars in revenue. In a series of concessions by the tribe, the Mohawks have agreed to provide \$20 million a year to the county and to Monticello to offset the impact of the casino and to collect and remit taxes from sales of liquor, cigarettes and other retail items at the casino.

## Employment Worries in Europe Slow Airbus Streamlining Plan

By **Nicola Clark**

*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

PARIS

Mounting pressure from European governments has blocked a long-awaited restructuring plan for the European Aeronautic Defense and Space Co. that is expected to result in thousands of lost jobs at the company’s troubled Airbus unit.

The latest standoff comes after politicians in Germany, France and Britain all lobbied to preserve jobs in their countries.

The EADS board said on Monday that it had failed to reach an agreement on the revamping plan, which the company had intended to announce this week.

In a terse statement issued from Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, France, the Airbus chief executive, Louis Gallois, stressed “the need to very quickly find a solution that overcomes national issues.”

“I made proposals which I deem balanced, both from an industrial and a technological point of view, and which serve our objective of economic competitiveness,” Gallois said.

Gallois had planned to meet with leaders of the company’s European works councils on Tuesday to present details of the plan, which seeks to save billions of dollars over the next several years through reductions in staffing and procurement costs, as well as increased outsourcing of aircraft production and assembly to contractors, both in Europe and overseas.



# OPINION

## From the Editor

The Feb. 16 editorial authored by members of The Tech’s editorial board mistakenly referred to Prof. James L. Sherley as Mr. Sherley while referring to Prof. Douglas A. Lauffenburger as Prof. Lauffenburger. Unfortunately, this may have given the impression that the editorial was biased against Sherley. This inconsistency was not intentional and resulted

largely from Lauffenburger being referred to as “Prof. Lauffenburger” in a quote within the editorial. It is not Tech style to use Mr., Mrs., or Ms. as a title. Future editorials will adhere to Tech style.

Marie Y. Thibault  
Editor in Chief

## Corrections

Due to an editing error, the charges for the three students who tripped an alarm in E52 were unclear. The Feb. 16 article, “Three Students Face Felony Charges After Tripping E52 Alarm,” should have listed all three students as being charged with two counts: 1) trespassing and 2) breaking and entering with the intent to commit a felony. Additionally, Matthew W. Petersen ’09, one of the three students, is also being charged with possession of burglarious tools.

The Feb. 16 sports headline “Men’s Track Undefeated, Earns Ninth NEWMAC Team Title,” incorrectly stated that the men’s indoor track team won the NEWMAC championship. There is no such championship for indoor track.

## Letters To The Editor

### Journalists Should Find Evidence

I read your editorial concerning the apparent lack of evidence for Prof. Sherley’s claims of racism. While your argument seems logical and deliberate, your conclusions are obvious and you have added no value to the debate. Despite my own inquiry into the case, I remain ignorant of the deep facts. As my colleague remarked, “When are they going to tell us what really happened?” Of course there is a lack of evidence, and of course the burden of proof falls upon the accuser. These two points are not in question, as you have clarified in print.

You are also apt to note that racism is subtle and insidious. However, the problem at the Institute is not out-and-out racism, nor even silent, invisible discrimination. The problem is apathy, complacency, and a lack of advocacy. MIT has taught me that excellence means never being fully satisfied with your work. So, my challenge to you is this: Stop being arm-chair journalists. If there is a lack of evidence for Sherley’s case, go look for evidence. Seek transparency. Prove him right, or prove him wrong. Stating the obvious proves nothing. Whatever you choose to do, whatever you find, and whatever you conclude, I hope you will discern your mission as journalists.

Julián E. Villarreal ’07

### Where Is the Evidence?

In the Feb. 16 issue of The Tech, *The Tech’s* editorial board argued that Prof. James Sherley’s claims of racism lack evidence. Thirty years ago, when I was an MIT undergraduate, I might well have held a similar opinion. Young people at top universities, who have mostly not yet faced discrimination themselves, generally believe that this world is a meritocracy and that prejudice based on race, religion, and gender have long ago disappeared. Instead the reality is that most well meaning people still harbor abundant prejudices. Anyone who doubts this should spend a few minutes at the web site of Harvard Professor Mahzarin Banaji <http://implicit.harvard.edu>. So where is the evidence of racism in regards to Prof. Sherley’s claims? Here is some of the evidence that is troubling to me:

First, I am troubled that to my knowledge nearly all African-American faculty members that have come to MIT in science and engineering as assistant professors have failed to thrive, have not been tenured (or had to appeal a tenure denial), or have left science altogether. These faculty include Luther Williams, Cardinal Ward, Sylvia Sanders, Philip Phillips, and now James Sherley. All feel strongly that they were not treated fairly by MIT. Perhaps there are more I am unaware of. Sylvia Sanders’ experiences were so bad that even though she was an

HHMI investigator, she left MIT and dropped out of science altogether, and now teaches third grade down the street from where I live.

Second, I am troubled, as summarized so eloquently in Prof. Chomsky’s letter (<http://www-tech.mit.edu/V127/N1/1facultyopn.html>), that Sherley has been treated so unfairly both before tenure and during the tenure process. For instance, I have never heard of any tenure-track white faculty member at MIT or elsewhere who was given only 340 sq. ft. of independent lab space. How could anyone meet the high bar for tenure under such a disadvantage?

Third, I am troubled that Prof. Sherley failed to be tenured yet has won all the most prestigious science awards, is a highly lauded teacher, a truly innovative scientist, and a spectacular role model. Yet Sherley is not on a hunger strike just to obtain tenure for himself; he has job offers from other schools. He is on a hunger strike because he feels so strongly about the degree of racism that he and the others have experienced at MIT that he has decided to take this drastic actions, even though these actions seriously threaten his reputation and his very life.

Fourth, I am troubled that in all of MIT’s official statements in response to Sherley, they have been remarkably deceptive in the facts they have released, referring to numbers of total minority faculty, as opposed to African-American faculty, who have been tenured. MIT has not been honest about the fact that over the past 30 years so few of their African-American faculty members in science and engineering have failed to thrive. *The Tech* editors have argued that it is Sherley’s responsibility to bring forth the evidence, but it seems to me that it is the MIT administration’s responsibility to examine their record and honestly reveal the facts. For instance, how many other African-American faculty have failed to thrive at MIT in science and engineering? How many other African-American faculty were given so little independent lab space?

African-Americans presently constitute about 10% of the American population. Yet, despite a large and increasing number of African-American students over the past 30 years, the number of African-American faculty in science and engineering at MIT and other American universities is vanishingly small, being under 1% of total faculty in science and engineering <http://www.jstor.org/view/10773711/di020318/02p0247x/0>. Sherley’s hunger strike should prompt each of us to ask ourselves if we could be contributors, even if unconsciously, to this problem. How many of us can be truly certain that we have not been deeply insensitive to pervasive racial barriers that we have not personally experienced?

I call upon the MIT community to support Prof. Sherley and to ask the MIT administration to take decisive, rapid, and public actions to make MIT a far more supportive environment for African-American faculty.

Ben Barres ’76, MD, PhD  
Professor of Neurobiology  
Stanford University School of Medicine

### Discrimination in Academia: Yes It Really Exists

MIT Professor James Sherley’s hunger strike to end discrimination against minority faculty has left many wondering whether such protest was warranted. His reportedly difficult personality, his opposition to embryonic stem cell research, and MIT’s competitive tenure process were sufficient explanations for his not receiving tenure, right? After all, this is MIT—we are among the most educated people in the world. How can discrimination possibly exist here?

“When it comes to bias, it seems that the desire to believe in a meritocracy is so powerful that until a person has experienced sufficient career-harming bias themselves they simply do not believe it exists,” wrote Ben Barres, a prominent Stanford researcher (*Nature*, 2006). Discrimination today is hard to believe because it is subtle. Women faculty at MIT experienced this type of pervasive, institutionalized discrimination just over ten years ago. Although they directed their own labs, they bore demeaning questions such as “So whose lab are you in?” They were paid less and given less lab space. But most did not complain — many of them did not even realize they were being discriminated against. Nancy Hopkins realized a problem existed and pushed for “A Study on the Status of Women Faculty in Science at MIT” (1999). Then-President Charles Vest admitted that he had “always believed that contemporary gender discrimination within universities is part reality and part perception.” Only after he saw the numbers was he convinced that “reality is by far the greater part of the balance” (MIT News Office, March 31, 1999).

The problems that Professor Sherley (among other minority faculty) has had here mirror the discrimination that plagued our women faculty over ten years ago. Prof. Sherley has had little respect from his department. Although he was the first member hired into the BE department, they fail to acknowledge it. At his “introductory” faculty talk, which did not happen until after several years of being at MIT, the faculty member who was supposed to introduce him failed to show up. As a UROP in his lab, I could feel the awkwardness of having to work in borrowed lab space. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, the department did not make him feel welcome in their community.

MIT is supposed to be a free-thinking, leading-edge institution. President Hockfield, in her first year here, affirmed that MIT should take a “leadership position among our peer institutions in the recruitment and in the academic success of underrepresented minority faculty” (MIT News Office, Feb. 7, 2005). A year later, Provost Reif established two committees — the Minority Faculty Recruitment Committee, and

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### Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of Chairman Michael McGraw-Herdeg, Editor in Chief Marie Y. Thibault, Managing Editor Austin Chu, Executive Editor Rosa Cao, and Opinion Editors Barun Singh and Aditya Kohli.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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# Eminent Domain, Imminent Danger

Justin Wong

The power of eminent domain permits government to seize your house, land or business for “public use,” the term used in the constitutional clause which limits this authority. Local governments are increasingly abusing this prerogative, transferring seized land to other private parties rather than putting it to a truly public use like roads and other infrastructure. The recipients are usually corporations represented by powerful lobbies. In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled in *Kelo v. New London* that a confiscatory transfer to another private party is a legitimate “public use” if the resulting economic activity under the new owners benefits the community. However, every piece of land would generate more employment, more goods and more tax revenue for the confiscators as a commercial establishment than as a private residence. Every home in America is now vulnerable to seizure under eminent domain under this expansive new interpretation of “public use,” not just those along roads which need to be widened.

What local politician doesn’t want economic revitalization on his resume? Under the *Kelo* decision, land seizures will proliferate, ruining the lives of people who cannot afford to purchase a new home if dispossessed of their current ones. The so-called “just compensation” offered by the government is usually insufficient — if market value was offered to begin with, eminent domain would probably not need to have been invoked. Even if the forced payment is fair, there is no guarantee that the homeowner can find a comparable house at the same price, or even in the vicinity of his former

home, affecting his life in areas like his job or where his kids can go to school. The very existence of a strengthened eminent domain power would lower the value of the home itself due to increased risk of potential seizure. If the displaced homeowner must buy a more expensive house, eminent domain would force him to spend money he would not otherwise spend. If he must buy a house at a cheaper price, equal in every respect to the one taken from him, companies would have been able to persuade him to move there without resorting to taking his land. If he cannot buy a house at all, eminent domain would force him to squander money on rent instead of using it for other needs, like education, retirement savings, or just general enjoyment. It may also be difficult for renters evicted from buildings demolished under eminent domain to find comparable apartments elsewhere.

Small-business owners with no other marketable skills may not be able to make a living if their stores are razed to make way for other merchants. These small stores thrive due to market demand for the services or products they provide. There is no guarantee that the consumers can find these goods elsewhere, or that these small proprietors can find new clients in other places, especially if they sell to niche markets.

Thus, a man loses not just his house or shop, but his whole life and livelihood. It is often asked, though, why one person should impede economic progress. It is important to real-

ize, however, that homeownership itself is an economic value to be considered against that perceived of the re-developed land. Ultimately, value is not measured in dollar amounts, but by the happiness that goods and services provide to individuals in the free market — what economists call “utility.” Everyone prospers when each man is free to decide the utility he gets from goods he has and goods he wants. It is impossible for confiscators and their corporate partners to know fully the utility of the home to the individual and to argue that it is less than the utility of the proposed development to the community. After all, the total utility to a community is merely the sum of the utilities to the individuals.

Further, it is self-defeating to generate economic wealth by subverting its enabling principle — the individual right to property. Being able to keep what you earn is the primary incentive to produce. Endangering this right chills production. Americans would mitigate the potential loss to the increased threat of eminent domain by purchasing smaller homes, or not buying them at all. The losses to the home construction industry, and to the industries which support it, would offset the benefits of the re-developed land. Because a home is the largest expense for many people, reducing the desire for homeownership decreases the incentive to work as hard. Even the confidence of large businesses will be shaken if their land can be taken and transferred to still larger businesses who claim the ability to deliver greater economic output.

Productivity would eventually diminish across all economic sectors due to a generally lowered confidence in property protection. Eminent domain undermines the very economic goals the confiscators seek, and its ill effects are not confined to the person whose land is taken.

The expansion of eminent domain power imperils more than just property rights. You exercise free speech by virtue of ownership of the paper your words are printed on, of the film your speech is recorded on, and of the equipment used to produce and to distribute those and other media. Free speech, though it is regulated, cannot even exist without title to the physical property which must ultimately store and distribute speech. To illustrate how the power of eminent domain can circumvent the First Amendment — a right-wing administration dislikes the broadcast of a liberal TV station and seizes the land of its offices and transmission tower for economic redevelopment.

The unjustifiably broad interpretation of “public use” in the 2005 *Kelo* decision erodes the constitutional barrier against eminent domain abuse. Economic development can only be a true public use if the benefits accrue equally to all members of the public. However, companies which operate seized land receive far more than others. The government, on behalf of the public, could collect all the profits made from operating seized land, but what would effectively be a tax rate of 100% would discourage companies from seeking land seizure in the first place. Hence, economic development cannot be a “public use,” in either theory or practice.

In response to *Kelo*, initiatives to restrict eminent domain power passed in 10 of the 12 states which had such measures on the ballot last November. Hopefully, more states will follow.

*Economic development can only be a true public use if the benefits accrue equally to all members of the public.*

## Letters To The Editor, continued

Letters, from Page 4

the Committee on the Retention of Minority Faculty (MIT News Office, Feb. 21, 2006). This second committee was responsible for studying “the experience of minority faculty at the Institute” (MIT News Office, Feb. 14, 2006). In response to Prof. Sherley’s strike, they established yet another “committee of leaders” (Message to MIT Faculty, Jan. 29, 2007). These “leaders” were charged again with examining minority faculty status, rather than finding ways to improve minority faculty experiences. Instead of seeking out solutions, MIT chose instead to bury the issue. Ironically, MIT recognized Prof. Sherley as a 2005 Martin Luther King, Jr. Leader, but when he spoke up about problems of racism at MIT, they ignored him.

James Sherley chose to undergo a hunger strike because he believes his protest will lead to a better MIT. He had many options when he was denied tenure. He filed a grievance to Provost Brown, and then another to Provost Reif. He appealed his case to President Hockfield. Each denial condoned the racism that he encountered. If he was embittered by these denials, he could have filed a lawsuit. Instead, he chose to take an

action that will benefit more than just him. He challenges us to look at the institution from the viewpoint of a minority. Last Friday, after two years of protest and two weeks of a hunger strike, MIT finally admitted “responsibility for ensuring an environment in which all members of our diverse community feel welcome and respected” (MIT News Office, Feb. 16, 2007). I hope that MIT will take concrete actions that protect minorities against institutional bias. We, as members of the MIT community, should also take individual responsibility for ensuring that minorities feel welcome in the MIT community. It is each person’s duty to ensure that we are not discriminating against our minority peers through ignorance of our actions or inaction. Only then, through the joined efforts of the entire community, can we remove discrimination from MIT.

Melissa P. Wu ’05

### Stop Supporting Genocide Through MIT’s 401k Plan

We have all read the news reports on the

ongoing genocide in the Darfur region, which has claimed the lives of an estimated 400,000 men, women, and children and led to the displacement of 2.5 million others. The government of Sudan continues to pursue genocide in Darfur, frustrating long years of diplomatic efforts to bring peace and protection to civilians there.

What can we do? It is well established that Sudan’s oil revenue is providing funding for arms and genocide, and not economic development for the poor people of Sudan.

MIT holds a significant investment portfolio; many of us signed a recent petition urging that MIT adopt a policy of “targeted divestment” from companies supporting the government of Sudan, and have written to President Hockfield and the ACSR, the group considering this matter, urging them toward a quick, positive decision on divestment. More than 30 other colleges and universities, including Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and Cornell, have already taken a moral stand against harmful investments in Sudan — MIT should be standing with them.

What other actions can we take? Recently we were shocked to learn of our own and

MIT’s connection to this genocide through our 401(k) provider, Fidelity Investments. Through its Contrafund and other mutual funds, Fidelity is one of the largest U.S. investors in two of the biggest companies in Sudan’s oil industry: PetroChina and Sinopec. Glaringly, Fidelity has actually been **increasing** its investments in these companies in spite of the ongoing genocide. Since Fidelity’s investments are so large, divestment will put real pressure on the oil companies operating in Sudan, and thereby on the government of Sudan to mend its behavior.

Fidelity has stated, in an Oct. 5, 2006 letter to the Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur, that their fund managers don’t take into consideration the morality of their investments. They said “... Fidelity portfolio managers make their investment decisions based on business and financial considerations, and take into account other issues only if they materially impact those considerations or conflict with applicable legal standards.”

As MIT employees, we specifically object to the inclusion of mutual fund choices within our program that support genocide. Even if those fund choices were removed, as long as Fidelity Investments continues its holdings in companies that enable genocide, we object to MIT’s use of Fidelity Investments as the administrator of our pension and retirement funds. During World War II, we saw companies behave amorally, maximizing profit independent of the cost in human lives. We were shocked by that behavior then and are shocked to see it repeated now. If Fidelity Investments chooses to behave amorally, then we’d like MIT to find a moral money manager for our pension and retirement plans. We ask all MIT staff members to join us in expressing our concerns to the MIT administration by writing to President Hockfield and to our plan administrator, Patricia Fay, [pfay@mit.edu](mailto:pfay@mit.edu).

Please join us in urging quick action on divestment by MIT, and full engagement by MIT with Fidelity on this issue. If you would like to learn more about these issues, or about additional specific actions you can take, please contact any one of us by e-mail, or visit the Web site, [www.fidelityoutofsudan.com](http://www.fidelityoutofsudan.com).

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# Science, Faith and Technology



The VERITAS FORUM

## *The Language of God* *A Believer Looks at the Human Genome*

Thursday, March 1  
7:30 PM, Stata Center 32-123

### **Francis Collins**

Author—*The Language of God:  
A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief*  
Head—National Human  
Genome Research Institute

## *Belligerents or Brothers?* *Are Science and Christian Faith at Odds?*

Friday, March 2  
7:30 PM, Kresge Auditorium

### **Ian Hutchinson**

Head—Department of Nuclear Science  
and Engineering, MIT

## *Living Machines* *Can Robots Become Human?*

Saturday, March 3  
7:00 PM, Kresge Auditorium

### **Rodney Brooks**

Director—Computer Science and Artificial  
Intelligence Laboratory, MIT

### **Rosalind Picard**

Founder and Director—Affective  
Computing Research Group, MIT

## Afternoon Events

### *Telling the Truth* *In the Business World*

Thursday, March 1  
12:00, E51-345

### **John Brandon**

Long-term Silicon Valley Executive

### *Faith, Academia, and the Developing World: Finding Linkages*

Saturday, March 3  
12:00, 3-270

### **Annette Kim**

Assistant Professor—Department  
of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT

### **Troy Van Voorhis**

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of Chemistry, MIT



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# CAMPUS LIFE

## Imminent Collapse

### Jobs of Jealousy

By Bill Andrews  
*CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR*

I just found out today that my younger cousin (not the one who had a baby, for those of you die-hard fans) got a promotion at work. She'll now be working at a job that pays about \$95K per annum, as they say. The news made me feel, shall I say, conflicted.

Of course I'm happy for her. Who wouldn't be? After all, that's quite a success, and at such a tender young age! Imagine, she's only just barely twenty-one years old. That's pretty neat, you know? Pretty gosh-darned, hunky-dory, spit-in-your-soup, kill me now neat. But at the same time, while I'd never dream of comparing her life to mine, since we are such different people after all, I can't help but notice that she's currently earning more than I'll probably make for at least 5, 6, 15 years. And, the happiest little fact of all is, she never went to college! Wow, isn't that great news?

Now, I know what you're thinking, if only because I agree: I'm just jealous. Not only did

she not have to endure the unique brand of misery that we all know and love @mit.edu, but she didn't go to college at all. I scoffed at her choice at first, but now it looks like she's got the last laugh, in her brand new convertible. Boy, there's nothing like crazy jealousy to make you re-examine your life goals and whatnot.

It's a problem that, perhaps, many of you won't even face, too. Odds are you're just the type of person (ie, course VI) that will do a very similar thing: land an amazingly well-paid job right out of school. I can't tell you how many times I've found out a former classmate is earning more than my entire net worth (and that's just their monthly salary). But, since there must be a few others like me, destined to work in the not-so-lucrative fields (or, like my fiancée, to toil in grad school for decades while all around you are losing their student loans) I offer this advice: get used to it.

Just look at Jawed Karim, the third founder of legendary procrastination tool YouTube. After helping other co-founders Chad Hur-

ley and Steven Chen develop ideas about the site, he decided to go back to grad school for his PhD. Hurley and Chen, meanwhile, got bought out by Google and are now incredibly rich and famous. Sure, Karim got some money too, but not nearly as much, and he got none of the fame; that's prime nouveau riche fame he's missing out on, studying programming till he's dizzy, instead of partying hard and getting busy. Clearly, sometimes it's just not worth it to go to school. It sure wasn't for my cousin.

But, in the midst of such jealousies, I also stumble upon the good things. Many of these people (though not all, heaven knows) actually hate their jobs, whether it's coding mindlessly or having to share research with fifteen other post-docs. My cousin, for instance, dreads going to work everyday, and it's only the paycheck (and now the cars and boats and whatever else she buys) that gets her through the day. I, on the other hand, will (hopefully) be doing something that I truly enjoy, and for which the years of school have made me a uniquely qualified candidate.

Plus, there's all the other random things you learn about in college. Not just the academic stuff either, but the whole 'being on your own, testing your limits, discovering yourself' BS that isn't all BS. My cousin'll never know the unusually awesome feeling of taking a vacation and going home at the same time that I felt every Thanksgiving or Spring Break, or just how many all-nighters in a row she can pull. Maybe that's worth some of the difference in paychecks. Probably not enough of it, of course.

Ultimately, though, I'm okay with that. In these days, when my fellow seniors (and even recent grads) are evaluating different futures, deciding between the okay job or the risky dream, the question of jealousy might well come up. I like my field and my profession and I'm excited to get into it; if I can't be as rich as my cousin, or most of my friends, well so what? I think it's worth it, and I bet at least some of my peers would agree. And, hey, on the bright side, at least I'll be getting some nicer birthday presents from now on.

## Scott's Travels

### A One-way Ticket to Moscow

By James Scott Berdahl

"I'll be starting in Moscow," I explained to the girl from Maine in the seat beside mine, "and from there I'll take the Trans-Siberian Railway east across Russia to Lake Baikal." The girl from Maine in the seat beside mine was headed for Israel for a year abroad, though she hardly seemed prepared. She had made my acquaintance by boarding the plane with four large bags and arranging herself awkwardly amongst them in her seat, next to mine. Shortly before takeoff, the man across the aisle was kind enough to inform her of the existence of overhead bins and the space under the seat in front, and together we helped her stow her belongings.

"After Siberia I'd like to see Mongolia," I continued, moving my finger south on the map of Asia in the in-flight magazine. "I'm thinking of getting a horse there and exploring the countryside for a month or two. Then I'll head to China and maybe float along the Yangtze River before heading into Tibet and across the Himalayas to Nepal. If all goes well, I should end up in India in seven or eight months." That was the loose outline of my plan. I'd spent enough time daydreaming of far away places here at MIT that between my sophomore and junior years I

decided to take a year off school to travel some of the world. All that I had at this point, though, was an airplane ticket to Moscow and a Russian visa.

"Wow," said the girl from Maine in the seat beside mine, "so you're going to be going all over Europe!" I looked at the map, labeled Asia, then back at her, waiting for her to correct herself. Her eyes met mine with a blank, enthusiastic stare. "... Asia," I said finally. Her brow furrowed in confusion. "Well..." she went on, "but mostly in Europe too." I nodded dismissively. An awkward silence passed before her brow furrowed once more. "What do your parents think of this trip? Why aren't they going with you?" I could have asked her the same thing.

After a brief stopover in Zurich, I finally touched down in Moscow. I was viciously scolded by the customs official for no apparent reason — a practice I would soon learn to be the norm throughout most of Russia — and then released into the airport. The airport was a chaotic sea of signs and faces, none of which I could read. I had no idea where to go, so I floated helplessly amidst the flow of bodies towards one end of the airport. By following the flow and mimicking the person in front of

me at appropriate times, I wound up on a train headed, well, I didn't know where. Still, I was making progress, even if it was in the wrong direction.

Then another thing I would soon discover to be the norm throughout most of Russia happened. An attractive girl took the seat next to mine. Having already mastered the Russian word for yes on the plane ride from Zurich, and possessing a decent command of the word for no, I decided to try my hand at a conversation. I found the word for "hello" in my phrase book and started to decipher the mysterious Cyrillic alphabet. The first symbol, resembling misshapen 3, stood for 'z.' Next there was a 'd,' followed by an 'r.' Huh. Z-d-r. The rest of the word looked just as hard. I put the book away and elected to examine the passing scenery in lieu of any conversation. There were other fish in the sea.

Through some stroke of luck, the train dumped me off at an entrance to the metro. From there, I pushed my way through another chaotic crowd, boarding and getting off trains at random, hopelessly lost. Finally I stopped, found the symbols for the name of the train station I was at and compared it to the name of the train station I was trying to get to. Mi-

raculously, of the hundreds of stops on over ten lines in the Moscow system, I was at the right one.

Outside, it was raining. "Delve deep into the heart of the city," read the promotional text on my Moscow guidebook. As far as I could tell, I had delved deep into somewhere near the pancreas. After wasting a good deal of time discovering why each street had the same name, (it turned out all the streets were called "stop") I arrived at my destination, a dilapidated Soviet-era apartment block constructed of crumbling cement and soggy cardboard. Supposedly there was a hostel inside. A blast of pigeon wings greeted me as I peeked into the dark entryway, but there were no other signs of life. Despondent, I returned to the streets. The locals who didn't avoid me were of little help. The sun was setting and I was soaked. My budget didn't allow for a hotel. I began looking for a big tree, an overhang, or even some cardboard, anything to shelter me and my backpack for the night. As I searched, a wave of helplessness the likes of which I've never felt before washed over me. I was alone, halfway around the world and regretting I'd ever left the comfort of the life I knew at home. I could only wonder how the girl from Maine was doing.

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Run Bug

by Roberto Perez-Franco G

Hey, Buddy. I thought you were going to take the Shuttle. Did you decide to walk?

With this nice weather? No way.

The Shuttle was too full, and it only picked up nine students. Now I am late for a meeting with my research group.

Look at the bright side. At least you will get some exercise.

Whatever.

Have you noticed that on freezing days like this one, you always seem to be walking against the wind?

That's a good point, actually.

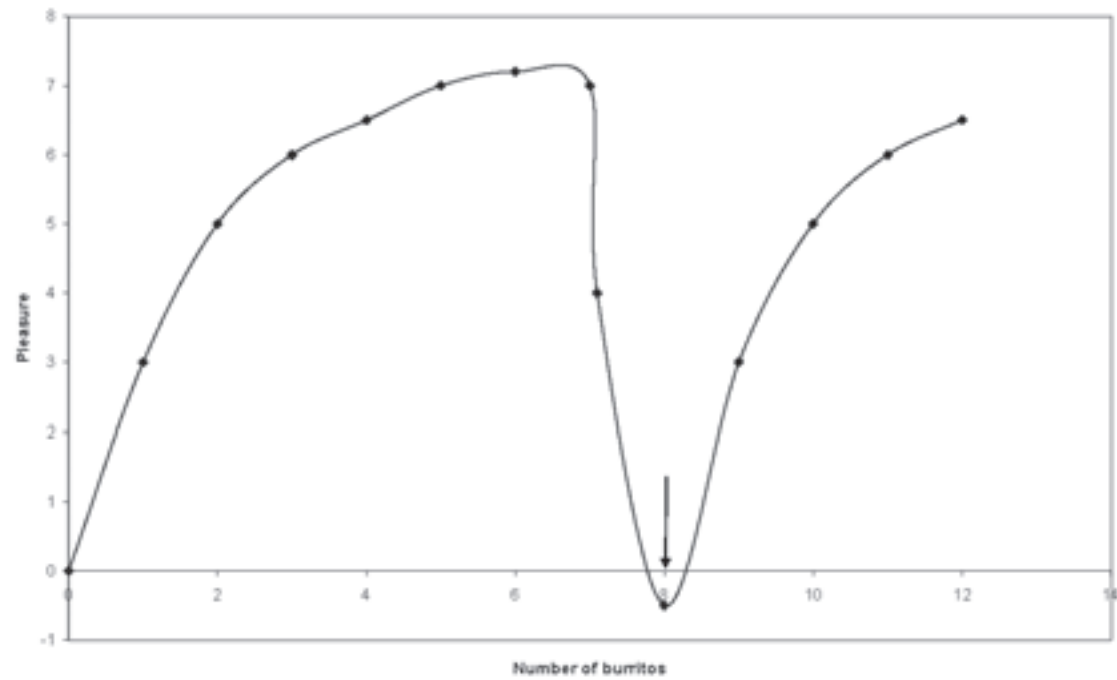
2007-Feb-05

RUNBUG.COM

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein

Nondimensional pleasure as a function of ingested Anna's burritos



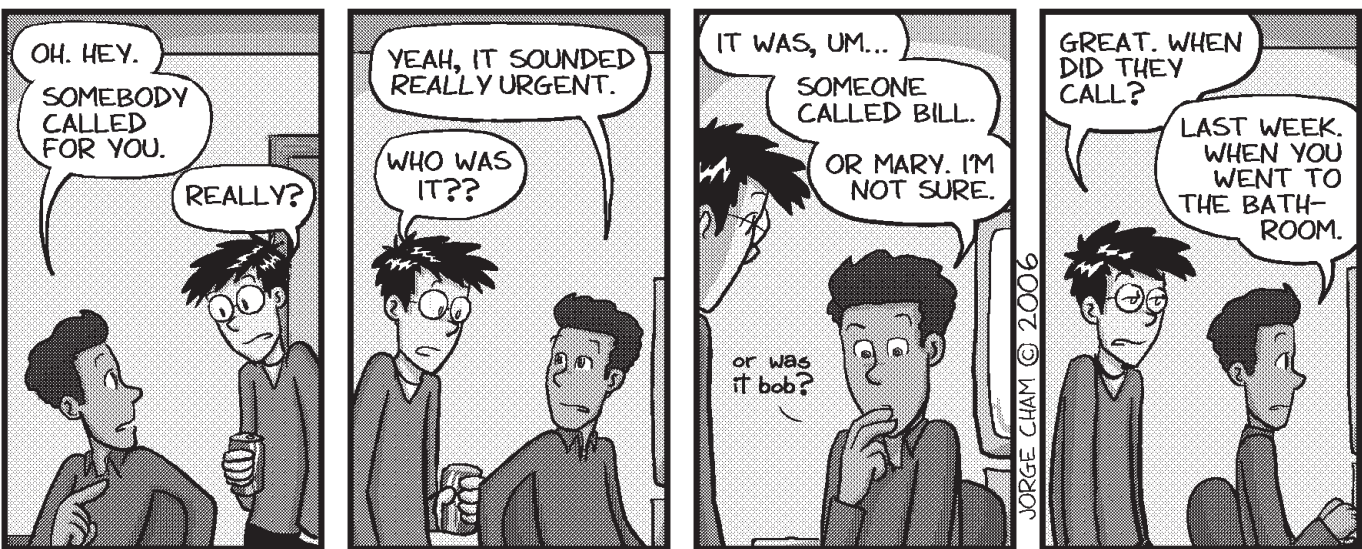
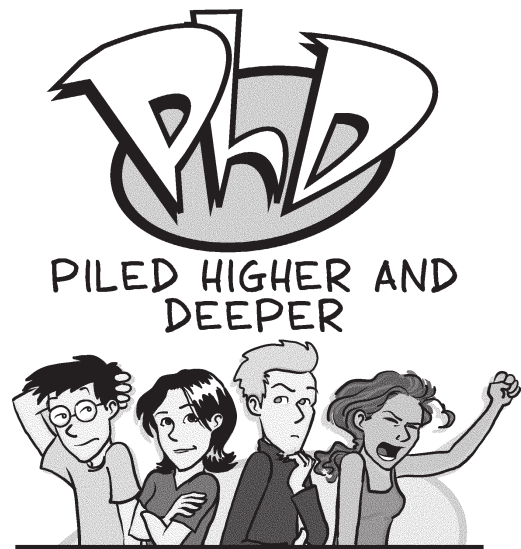
**Figure 1.** The data for five students is summarized in this graph. Standard deviations are not shown for clarity, but the trend was always observed. The arrow indicates the occurrence of a puking event, which usually takes place one or two burritos after saturation is reached. Although not clearly seen from this incomplete data set, an oscillatory pattern arises in which pleasure increases, saturates, and decreases sharply.

su | do | ku

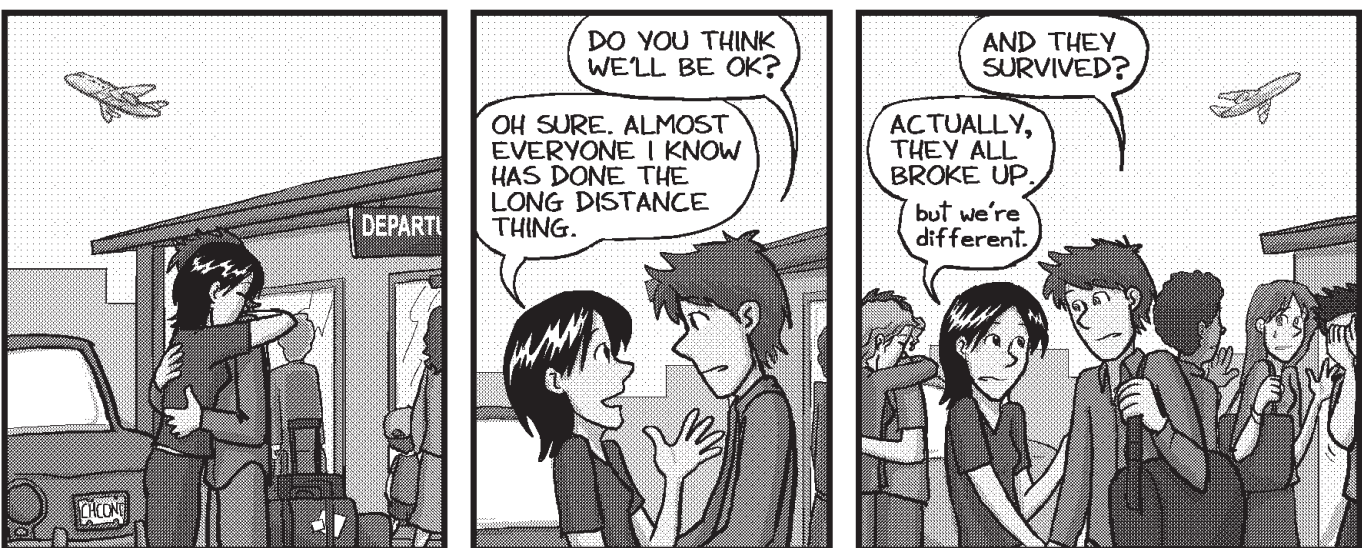
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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.  
Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution, page 13.





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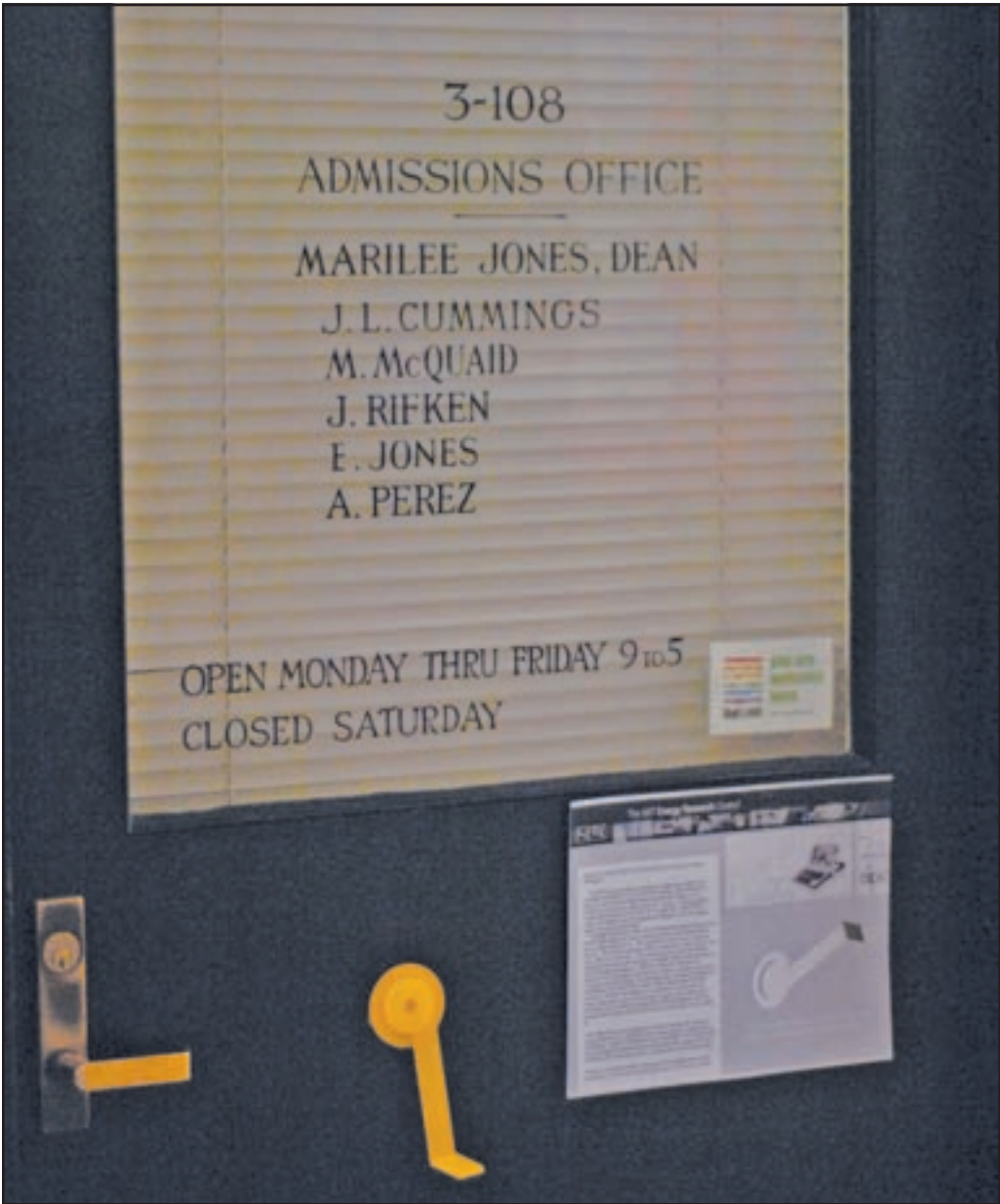


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MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH



MARTIN A. SEGADO

# MIT: Now Powered by Hackers, Hand Cranks

MIT hackers installed cranks on Athena machines, office doors, and numerous other objects on campus “in recognition of MIT’s Energy Initiative and the \$100 Laptop Project,” according to a statement released by the hackers. Some of the cranks were accompanied by an explanatory poster describing the hack as “destined to forever change the way MIT views energy conservation and policy” and as having “already [increased] the campus’s energy efficiency by 0.0005%.”

(left)  
The admissions office was “upgraded” to the new energy standard alongside doors, bathroom signs, and otherwise undistinguished walls.

(bottom left)  
Matthew N. Faulkner '08 plays with one of the many yellow cranks that appeared around campus as part of Sunday’s hack.

(bottom right)  
The hackers installed cranks on the QuickStations in Building 16.



MICHAEL MCGRAW-HERDEG—THE TECH



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# '09 Brass Rat Implements Unique Features Into Bezel

Ring, from Page 1

the ring design. Information about the ring, including a draft with details of the design, was accidentally published on Athena and was available for over a month before the design was unveiled last Friday.

The brass rat traditionally consists of several parts, including the bezel, the class shank, the seal shank, the campus map, the Boston skyline and the Cambridge skyline.

The Ring Committee described some of the distinctive features on this year's bezel, which includes a second beaver swimming in the Charles River to symbolize friendship, the cannon behind the large beaver, and a three-headed dog, Kerberos, which guards the school.

Gwenn M. Miller '09 said, "I thought the 2009 letters were too big. But overall the design is very good."

According to the Class of 2009 Ring Web site, the class shank is marked by a dollar bill which sits behind the columns of building 10 in memory of the old cashier's office mural and the controversy over its removal. The former planet Pluto is sketched to the left of the Great Dome.

The inscription "punt" under the icon of the Great Dome, can be read as "tool" when turned upside down. Under the inscription "punt" is a picture of the fire hose, depicting the saying that "getting an education from MIT is like taking a drink from a fire hose."

"The punt and tool are very dif-

ferent this year. It may take a while to get over it," said Jason J. Whittaker '09.

The seal shank consists of the three letters — M, I, and T — with the school seal below. Beneath the seal is a globe within the nucleus of an atom that symbolizes the universal thinking at MIT as well as the diversity that characterizes the school.

This year's ring also has a hacking mapping on the underside of the bezel.

Joanne H. Bruno '09 said, "I'm happy with the design. I liked the hacker's map and especially the side with the beaver on it."

The Boston and Cambridge skylines are engraved on opposing sides of the bezel.

This year, students have a chance to win a ring. The Mystery Hunt, which last took place in 2004, has been resumed this year. The Ring Committee will release a clue each week for four weeks, at the end of which a final "answer" may be submitted. The first team to respond with the correct final answer will receive a refund equaling the price of two gold rings.

Christopher G. Whitfield '09, Chair of the Ring Committee, described that there were a certain number of free rings that the committee received from the company they were working with, Balfour, and after distributing those to the twelve members in the committee, they had three left over. So they decided to raffle one off at the Ring Premiere and use the Mystery Hunt to give away the other two.



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Ellen T. Wong '09 (left) and Lihua Bai '09 (right) marvel at the unique features of the 2009 Ring design.

"We thought it was a fun and cool way to get people involved with the ring and a way to give back to our class. After all, our goal is to design something that will last ages and we want to have fun while doing this and have the rest of our class be a part of this fun," said Whitfield.

Mosley described that the big-

gest challenge for the ring committee was to get twelve people from unique backgrounds and unique perspectives to meet and openly discuss how to devise one, unified design that would represent the entire class.

Ring orders will be taken in Lobby 10 at the Balfour booth from

Tuesday, Feb. 20, until Wednesday, Feb. 28. Prices range from \$118 for the Celestrum brass rat, up to \$680 for an 18K large sized ring.

Students will receive their rings at the Boston State Room on Thursday, April 19. More information is available online at <http://web.mit.edu/2009/ring/index.shtml>.



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Christopher G. Whitfield '09, Class of 2009 Ring Committee chair, and Vice Chair Colleen P. Mosley '09, explain the tradition of MIT's class ring, dubbed the "Brass Rat."



ERIC SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Mariel G. Kozberg '09 (left, in brown) hands her ticket to Emily Jean Onufer '10 (in pink) in order to claim her Class of 2009 shot glass and T-shirt.

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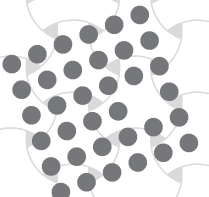
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MIT CAREERS OFFICE

**Undergraduate Association Goals Checklist For Spring 2007 Semester**

*This list outlines the goals and objectives set by the UA for the current semester. The tasks are divided and listed by committee.*

**UA Executive Branch**

- ¶ Advanced notification of textbooks on course listing Web site
- ¶ Facilitate access to course syllabi over Stellar for entire undergraduate community, regardless of registration settings
- ¶ Comprehensive audit of Association of Student Activities, Class Councils, and Baker Foundation funding boards to ensure efficient and equitable allocation of funds and minimize bureaucratic waste
- ¶ Increase funds available to Finance Board for funding of student activities
- ¶ Organize weekly UA visits at dormitories and Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups to increase communication and visibility

**UA Athletics Committee**

- ¶ Evaluate student satisfaction with current DAPER policies and facility management arrangement

**UA Student Space Planning Committee**

- ¶ Discussion sessions with student groups
- ¶ Work with ASA to prioritize W20 student space upgrades
- ¶ Publish report on on-campus student space

**UA Student Committee on Educational Policy**

- ¶ Evaluate student opinions on term regulations
- ¶ Inform students of regulations through Know Your Rights Week (early March)
- ¶ Evaluate gender and racial equality in terms of academic performance and retention
- ¶ Produce an advisory report compiling undergraduate feedback regarding Educational Task Force recommendations

**UA Nominations Committee**

- ¶ Improve the questions in the pre-interview process to be more committee specific
- ¶ Employ the new NomComm Institute/Faculty Committee blog
- ¶ Document committee selection criteria and policies

**UA Committee on Student Life**

- ¶ Publish an evaluative report on MIT Medical
- ¶ Conduct Wellness Week to raise awareness of mental and physical health issues on campus
- ¶ Institutionalize Mentorship Program to ensure its autonomous continuance
- ¶ Screen on the Green

**UA Finance Board**

- ¶ Improve the FinBoard web site and increase its visibility
- ¶ Increase advertising for the Start-up Fund

**UA Committee on Orientation**

- ¶ Work with the SLOPE Committee in helping to plan Orientation 2007
- ¶ Lead the planning on the Tuesday night event for Orientation 2007 that will be the analog to last year's Boston "T" Party
- ¶ Assist the Virtual Campus Preview Weekend project for students who cannot make CPW
- ¶ Work with the administration to implement changes as recommended by UA Report on Orientation

**UA Committee on Housing**

- ¶ Publish an undergraduate response to the 2006 Culture House report
- ¶ Investigate deferred maintenance, including Next House hot water
- ¶ Work with Housing and Dormitory Council to increase the number of early returns given to dormitory residents during Residential Exploration

**UA Dining Committee**

- ¶ Evaluate breakfast/late night dining options
- ¶ Investigate exemption from preferred dining for affiliated undergraduates

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# UA Committee Chair Talks About Student Space Planning Role

*This is the seventh of a series of weekly interviews with members of different Undergraduate Association committees. These interviews will be conducted by The Tech's news editors and members of the editorial board. A UA representative will be present during these interviews as well. Questions for the UA committee members should be sent to [uaqa@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:uaqa@the-tech.mit.edu) the same week they are featured. Responses to these questions will be printed alongside the following week's interview.*

*This week's featured committee is the newly-formed Committee on Student Space Planning. The Tech talked to Committee Chair David Lee G.*

**The Tech:** Describe the committee and the major issues your committee is dealing with.

**David Lee:** Our committee is new. The big project this year is putting together an official report for administrators or anyone involved in student space planning to articulate student needs. We're hoping to release the report by the end of the spring. To do the report, we're planning a series of discussions with students. The first one was last Thursday [Feb. 15] with performing arts groups. This Thursday, Feb. 22, we're going to talk about the state of Walker Memorial. There is planning taking place in the administration about what's going to happen to Walker in the next five years. We want to make sure students have a say.

**TT:** How often will you be having these meetings?

**DL:** We're hoping to have a meeting every week until spring break. They will be in the UA office on the fourth floor of the Student Center.

**TT:** Can you describe what was talked about at the last meeting?

**DL:** The theatre and dance groups were at the last meeting. They're pretty cooperative with each other, and there was a lot of agreement on what the issues are. We talked about performance spaces and rehearsal spaces in Kresge, Little Kresge, and La Sala. In terms of scheduling spaces, it's even more difficult now, because all the groups are growing.

**TT:** Besides the meetings, what other work will the committee be doing for the report?

**DL:** We're also going to research other schools, and put that in context to where MIT stands. Compared to universities of comparable size, people at other schools can name much better space. We don't have enough and what we have is not well-suited.

*More information is available at <http://scripts.mit.edu/~ua/drupal/node/20>.*

Solution to Sudoku  
from page 8


Solution to Crossword  
from page 8


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# Software Could Protect Against Online Media Piracy

By Brad Stone  
and Miguel Helft  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

As media companies struggle to reclaim control over their movies, television shows and music in a world of online file-sharing software, they have found an ally in software of another kind.

The new technological weapon is content-recognition software, which makes it possible to identify copyrighted material, even, for example, from blurry video clips.

The technology could address what the entertainment industry sees as one of its biggest problems — songs and videos being posted on the Web without permission.

Last week, Vance Ikezoye, the chief executive of Audible Magic in Los Gatos, Calif., demonstrated the technology by downloading a two-minute clip from YouTube and feeding it into his company's new video-recognition system.

The clip — drained of color, with dialogue dubbed in Chinese — appeared to have been recorded with a camcorder in a dark movie theater before it was uploaded to the Web, so the image quality was poor.

Still, Mr. Ikezoye's filtering software quickly identified it as the sword-training scene that begins 49 minutes and 37 seconds into the Miramax film "Kill Bill: Vol. 2."

The entertainment industry is clamoring for Internet companies to

adopt the technology for music files as well as for video clips. The social networking site MySpace, owned by the News Corporation, said last week that it would use Audible Magic's system to identify copyrighted material on its pages. But not every Internet company is rushing to go along. The video-sharing site YouTube, which Google bought last year, is the major holdout so far.

Though YouTube's co-founders said publicly that they would start using filtering technology by the end of last year, the site has yet to do so. And they have further angered some media companies by saying they would only use such technology to detect clips owned by companies that agree to broader licensing deals with YouTube.

The pressure is on. Executives at media companies like NBC and Viacom have criticized Google for the delay. Earlier this month, Viacom asked YouTube to remove 100,000 clips of its shows, like music videos from MTV and excerpts from Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

In a statement, YouTube said that identifying which video clips had been uploaded without permission was a complex problem that required the cooperation of the copyright owners. "On YouTube, identifying copyrighted material cannot be a single automated process," it said in the statement.

The systems being developed by

companies like Audible Magic and Gracenote make use of vast databases that store digital representations of copyrighted songs, TV shows and movies.

When new files are uploaded to a Web site that is using the system, it checks the database for matches using a technique known as digital fingerprinting. Copyrighted material can then be blocked or posted, depending on whether it is licensed for use on the site.

"This is capable of helping the film and TV studios comprehensively protect their works," Mr. Ikezoye said. "This could put the genie back in the bottle."

Audio fingerprinting technologies have been used successfully for some time to detect copyrighted music on file-sharing networks and, to a smaller degree, to identify music tracks on social-networking Web sites like MySpace.

Systems that can identify video files hold even greater promise to improve relations between traditional media companies and Internet companies like YouTube. But the technology is not quite ready.

"Video is much more complex to analyze, and more information needs to be captured in the fingerprint," said Bill Rosenblatt, president of GiantSteps Media Technology Strategies, a consulting firm based in New York. He noted that there were also more ways to fool

the technology — for example, by cropping the image.

Screening for video is also more difficult because of the sheer volume of new material broadcast on television each day, all of which must be captured in the database.

And deploying any type of fingerprinting technology can carry a price. Users tend to leave filtered Web sites and migrate to more anything-goes online destinations.

Nevertheless, some file-sharing networks and smaller video sites like Guba.com and Grouper.com are already using more basic filters that monitor video soundtracks and music files, hoping to appease copyright holders and stay out of the courtroom.

Last week, they got some company: MySpace announced that it would expand on early filtering efforts and license Audible Magic's audio and video fingerprinting technology. It will use the system to identify and obtain authorization for material from Universal Music, NBC Universal and Fox, three media companies that have wanted more control over their content on the site. The move ratchets up the pressure on YouTube, the largest video site on the Web.

Hollywood, long tormented by digital piracy, is growing excited about the possibilities of digital fingerprinting and filtering — in part because it is tired of having to ask

YouTube and other sites to remove individual clips, only to find them posted again by other users.

"To the extent you can readily and easily identify one film or TV show from the next, it enables different licensing models and the opportunity to protect your content," said Dean Garfield, executive vice president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

For now, however, audio fingerprinting is all that is widely available, and it can fall short in some situations, like when someone pairs a song with an unrelated piece of video.

For example, last December, one YouTube user uploaded scenes from the Warner Brothers movie "Superman Returns," matched to the song "Superman," by Five for Fighting of Columbia Records, a unit of Sony BMG Music.

With acoustic fingerprinting, Sony could authorize the use of the song and get a slice of the advertising revenue the clip generates, but Warner Brothers could not because the filter does not scrutinize video images.

Hoping to nurture the development of more advanced video fingerprinting, the film association asked technology companies last fall to submit video filtering systems for testing. Mr. Garfield of the association said 13 companies responded; their systems are now being evaluated.

Perhaps not surprisingly, there is now a flurry of interest in digital fingerprinting in Silicon Valley. Sean Varah, an electronic-music researcher who once worked for Sony music's venture capital group, founded the start-up MotionDSP in 2005 to develop technology to improve the quality of video images. But he changed the company's direction last year after seeing an opportunity in the filtering business.

"The television and movie producers have learned a lesson from Napster," he said, referring to the music-sharing service that first got the attention of media companies. "They are not going to wait and see what happens."

Attributor, another start-up based in Redwood City, Calif., is taking a different approach to filtering. It is developing automated software that will travel the Internet looking for copyrighted text, audio and video.

Setting up filters for each and every Web site and peer-to-peer network "is not a long-term solution," said Jim Brock, a former Yahoo executive and the chief executive of Attributor. Rights holders "need to have these kinds of solutions across the Internet," he said.

Audible Magic, which is considered to be an early leader in the field, started out with a system to recognize songs played on the radio, so it could offer listeners an opportunity to buy the music online. The company later adapted that technology to create an audio fingerprinting system.

Mr. Ikezoye, a former Hewlett-Packard marketing executive, recently set out to expand into video recognition. Last year, he licensed an invention called Motional Media ID, created by David W. Stebbings, a former executive at the Recording Industry Association of America.

## Daily Meditation

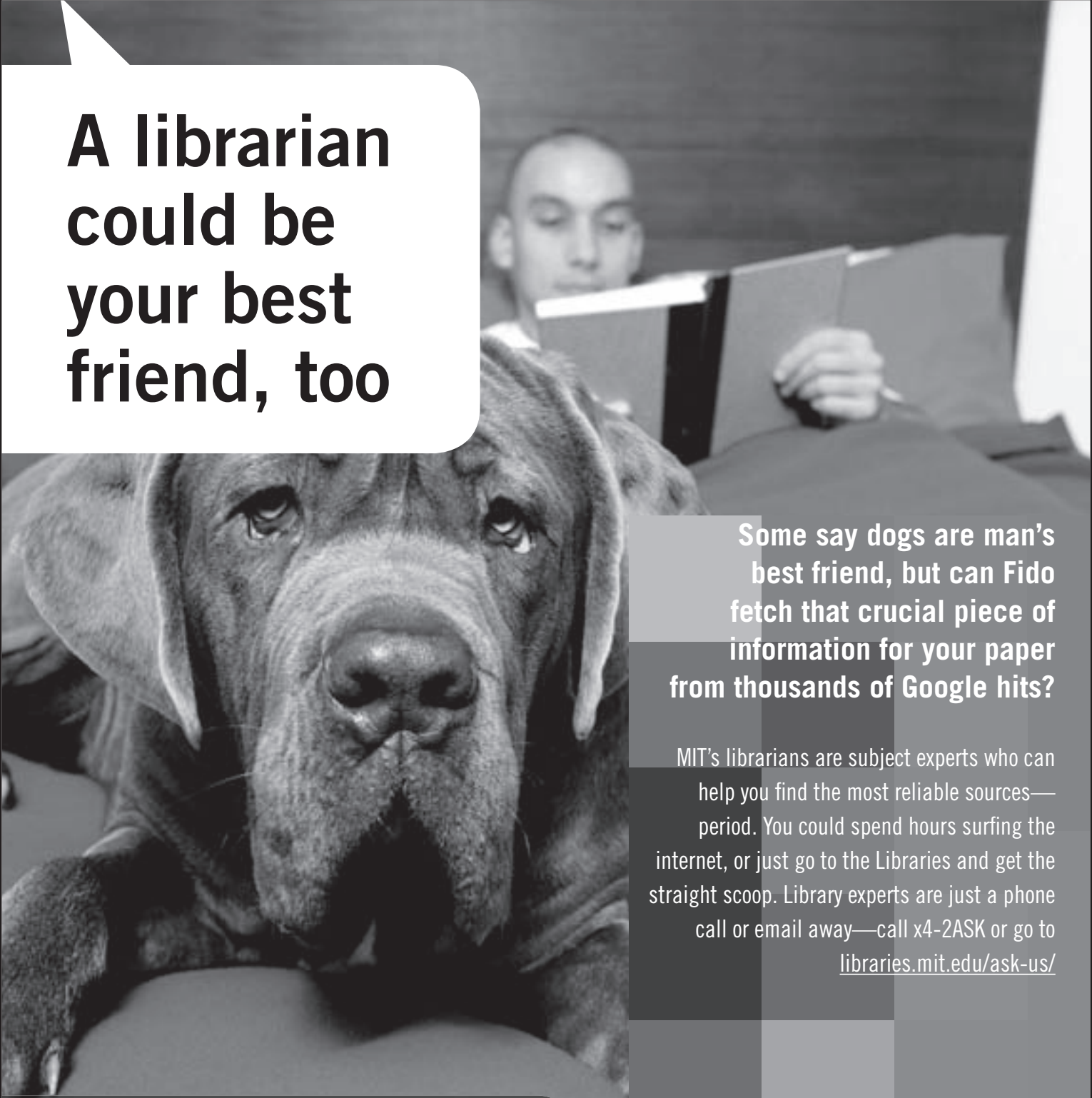
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MIT Bahá'í Association

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# Coop Student Board Election Update

The following student Coop members have been nominated by the Coop Stockholders as candidates for the Board of Directors for the 2007-08 academic year.

## HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Margaret (Maggie) Hsu 2008  
Pierpoalo Barbieri 2009  
Jenny Tea 2008  
Ronald Anguas 2008  
Timothy Smith 2008

## HARVARD GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Dan Bachner HLS 2008  
Manas Kaushik SPH 2008  
Lulu Wang GSAS/DMS 2011

## M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Rebecca Oman 2008  
Karlen Ruleman 2008  
Kevin Castelo Sloan School 2008

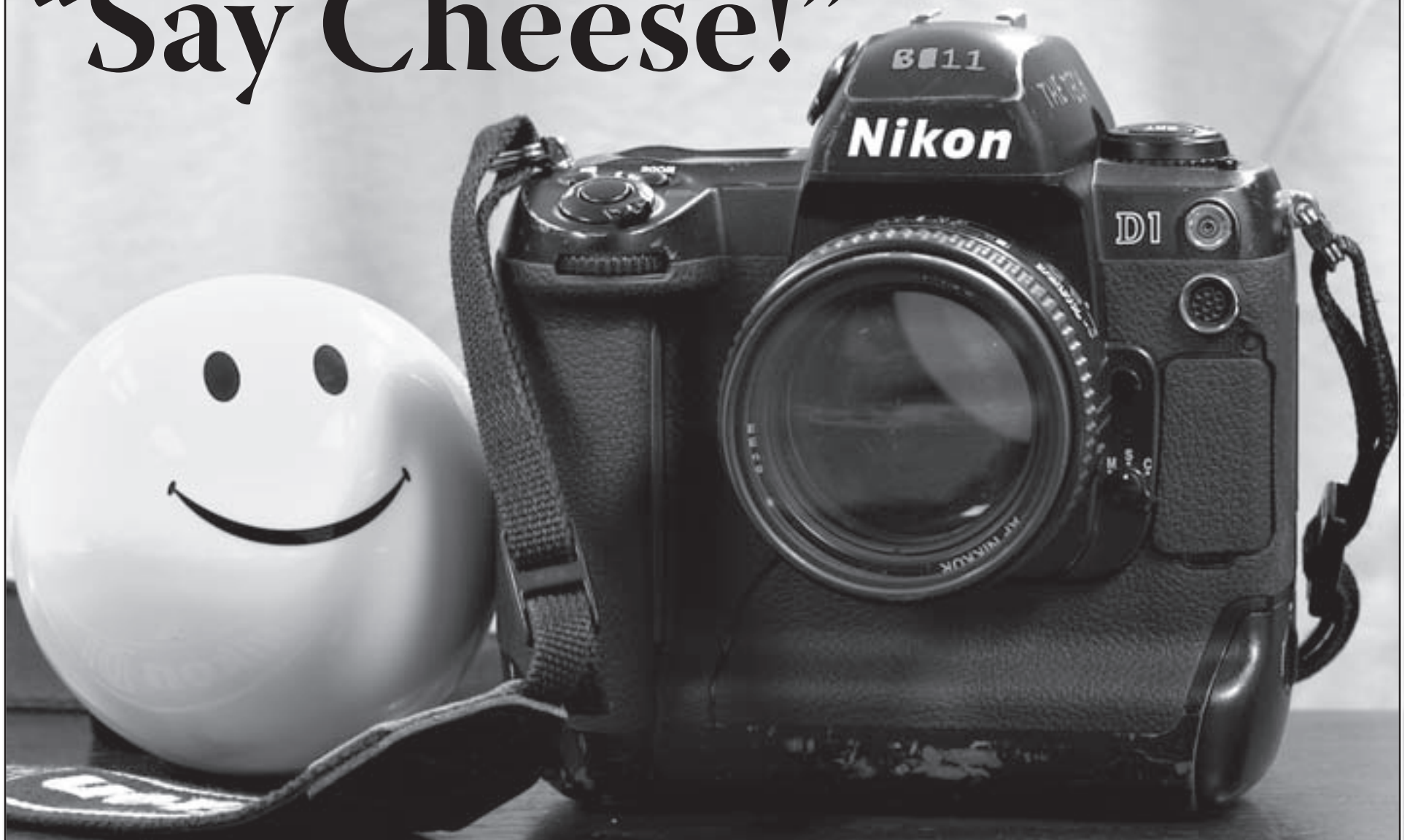


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Any student Coop member may still petition to be on the ballot. Petition papers are available at the customer service desks at all Coop locations or at the Members Services Office, 4th floor, Harvard Square Bookstore. Petitions must be returned by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2007.

# "Say Cheese!"



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# Media Lab Making Light, Cheap, Foldable Electric Car

By Robert Weisman  
THE BOSTON GLOBE

Will the car of the future be foldable?

That's the vision of a team of researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Media Lab. With backing from General Motors Corp., they are building a prototype of a lightweight electric vehicle that can be cheaply mass-produced, rented by commuters under a shared-use business model, and folded and stacked like grocery carts at subway stations or other central sites.

It's called the City Car, and the key to the concept lies in the design of its wheels. Dreamers have been re-inventing the wheel since the days of cave dwellers. But the work underway in "the Cube," the Media Lab's basement studio, may be the most ambitious remake yet.

The MIT team has transformed the lowly wheel into a sophisticated robotic drive system that will power the City Car. Embedded in each of its four wheels will be an electric motor, steering and braking mechanisms, suspension, and digital controls, all integrated into sealed units that can be snapped on and off.

And under the hood ... well, there won't be a hood on the City Car. Just an eggshell-shaped glass plate — part roof, part windshield — framing the modular cabin and stretching almost to the chassis.

"We're eliminating the internal combustion engine," said Media Lab research assistant Ryan C. Chin G, studio coordinator for City Cars. He said the four electric motors will enable a more efficient use of power by also dispensing with the transmission and driveline. "We're removing as much hardware from the car as possible."

In its place will be software that sets passenger preferences, changes the color of the cabin, controls the dashboard look and feel, and even directs drivers to parking spaces. "We think of the car as a big mobile computer with wheels on it," Chin said. "This car should have a lot of computational power. It should know where the potholes are."

And like a computer, the car will start with the push of a button. Instead

of a steering wheel, it has handlebars, akin to a scooter or motorbike. But the ride will be more like a traditional car, though smoother and quieter, Chin said. The body of the car will be made of lightweight composite material such as Kevlar or carbon fiber.

Among the car's other design departures are its folding chassis, enabling it to be stacked at designated parking areas across an urban area, where it could also be recharged. It also has a zero-turn radius, courtesy of a wheel configuration that provides omnidirectional motion. For the City Car, the traditional U-turn will be replaced by an O-turn, ideal for fitting into tight spaces.

The concept of the City Car was hatched by the Media Lab's Smart Cities group, as part of a strategy for reducing carbon emissions. The team is being led by William J. Mitchell, professor of architecture and media

arts and sciences.

Some of the Jetsonesque design of the City Car was inspired by the researchers' work with pioneering architect Frank Gehry, a friend of Mitchell, and associates at Gehry's architectural firm in Los Angeles. Gehry's firm was initially a partner, but has since scaled back its involvement to an advisory role.

Media Lab researchers are planning to have their prototype completed by the end of the year.

"I think we'll be driving it around the interior of this building," Chin said, "and hopefully ask the MIT police to let us drive it around a parking lot."

The three-year-old project is moving forward under the watchful eyes of liaisons from General Motors, a Media Lab sponsor, and MIT researchers hope the automaker will build a City Car concept vehicle in 2008 to dem-

onstrate at auto shows.

GM devotes a portion of its \$6 billion-plus annual research-and-development budget on university projects such as City Car to help its own researchers think out of the box, said Roy J. Mathieu, a GM staff researcher in Warren, Mich., who visits the Media Lab twice a semester and keeps in close contact with Chin's team.

"They're a rich cauldron of ideas we can use to develop concepts for our future cars," Mathieu said. "They're trying to imagine how the car will fit into the city in the future. Their ideas are interesting and intriguing, and we want to see if any of them fit into our technology road map."

Rebecca Lindland, director of automotive research at Global Insight in Lexington, said City Car is one of a number of futuristic designs being developed by automakers and independent labs to demonstrate new

technologies and concepts at a time of growing concern about global warming, traffic, and energy efficiency.

"The existing infrastructures can't support the population growth that we're seeing, so we're going to have to find viable alternative vehicles like the one MIT is designing," Lindland said.

Unless the cars can prove crash-worthy and meet government speed and emissions standards, however, their applications may be limited to gated communities and entertainment parks, she said.

Chin said the design remains a work in progress, and if necessary the team will reinforce the car to make it crashworthy.

As the MIT researchers envision it, the City Car won't replace private cars or mass transit systems but ease congestion by enabling shared transportation in cities.



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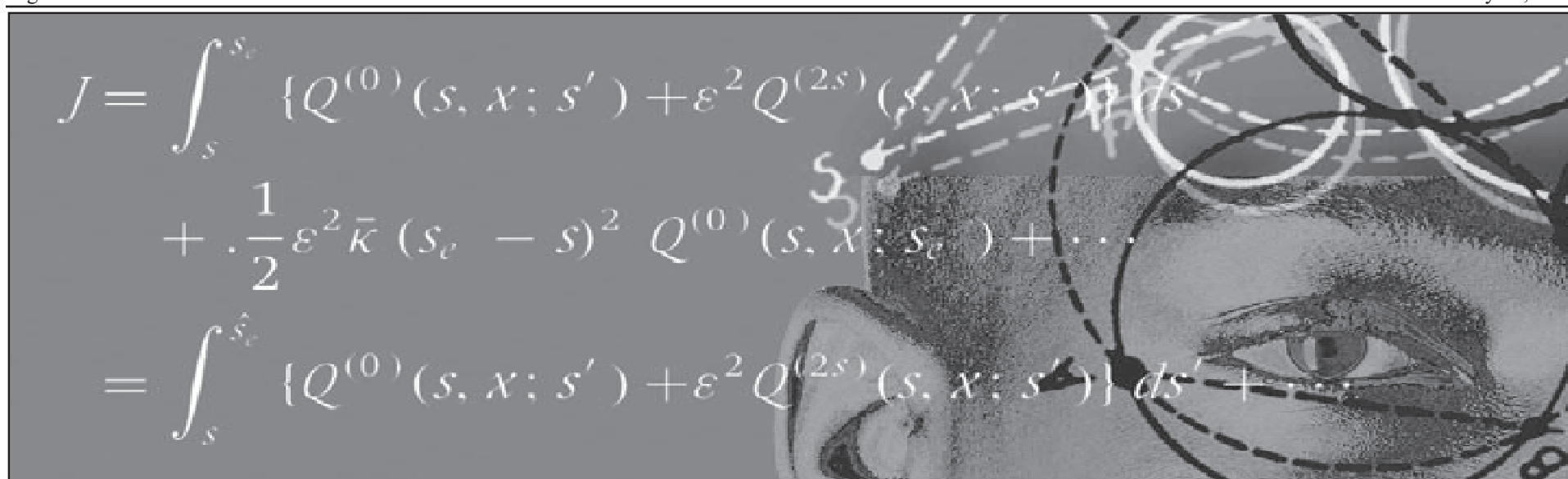
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# Statements from James L. Sherley and MIT Administration Regarding the End of Sherley's Hunger Strike

On Friday, Feb. 16, James L. Sherley and MIT issued the following statements regarding the conclusion of Sherley's 12-day hunger strike that same day. Sherley was protesting racial discrimination in his tenure case. For more information, see the article on page 1.

### Statement Released by Sherley

Dear colleagues:

As MIT observes its Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration today, I want to thank my supporters and other sympathizers of my hunger strike outside of the offices of the President and Provost. I am ending this part of my struggle. Starting today, I will in fact break my fast, in celebration of the attention that has been brought to bear on issues of equity, diversity, and justice at MIT and in higher education. Carefully modified from the original, my demands are still on the table. I urge the administration to act in good faith, to openly acknowledge and respond to the lines of communication and negotiation that have been in place for two weeks and to find its way to meet these demands.

Sincerely yours,  
James L. Sherley

### Statement Released by MIT

MIT deeply regrets that Professor Sherley's experiences at the Institute have resulted in his fast to express his concerns about racism. MIT bears responsibility for ensuring an environment in which all members of our diverse community feel welcome and respected. Professor Sherley's protest has focused attention on the effects that race may play in the hiring, advancement and experience of under-represented minority faculty, and on ensuring that our grievance processes are comprehensive, fair and timely. MIT is fully committed to addressing these issues and will continue to work toward resolution of our differences with Professor Sherley.



**Wednesday, February 21**  
**Service at 5:15pm**  
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<b>Annie Gosfield</b>	<i>Lost Signals and Drifting Satellites</i> (2003)
<b>Lisa Bielawa</b>	"Synopsis #3: <i>I think We Should Tell Her</i> " for solo flute (2006)
<b>Yotam Haber</b>	<i>Purity Guaranteed</i> (2002)
<b>Jacob Cooper</b>	<i>Not Just Another Piece for Solo Bass Drum</i> (2005)
<b>Lisa Bielawa</b>	"Synopsis #5: <i>He Figures Out What Clouds Mean</i> " (2007)
<b>Allen Vizzutti</b>	<i>Cascades</i>
<b>Peter Gilbert</b>	<i>Epigrams</i>

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SPORTS

Tech Falls to Clark, Fails to Make Field Goals Down Stretch

**By James Zorich**  
*STAFF WRITER*

Men's basketball fought valiantly but faded down the stretch under unrelenting pressure from the Clark University Cougars, falling by a final score of 81-73.

Clark (11-13, 5-7) exhibited exceptional ball-movement and a balanced offense, with five players scoring in double figures and 39 points coming from the bench. Head Coach Paul Phillips continually cycled players in and out, keeping the Cougars fresh by giving twelve players at least six minutes.

By contrast, only four Engineers scored, and MIT's (13-12, 5-7) starters sat on the bench for a combined total of five minutes.

The bulk of the Engineers' offense was provided by James M. Bartolotta '09 and Erich W. Bracht '10, who accounted for 54 of the team's 73 total points. On top of that, Clarke's deep bench outscored the Engineer's back-ups 39-0.

Bartolotta was the catalyst for Tech, as his all-around game stuffed the stat sheet with 32 points, 9 rebounds, 7 assists, and 6 steals. Bracht added a double-double with 22 points and 11 rebounds.

The lead changed 13 times in the see-saw second half, and the contest would not be decided until the final minutes. After a short Brecht jumper gave MIT its largest lead of the second half at 69-64 with just under five minutes remaining, the Cougars took control with an 11-0 run that included three straight field-goals from behind the arc.

For the game, Clark continually had success from long range, making 12 of 23 three-point attempts. MIT, on the other hand, was cold from outside and missed all seven attempts. The opposite was true at the free-throw line, where MIT converted on 25 of 27 attempts and Clark hit only 11 of 20.

Early on in the game MIT appeared to be the better team. The Engineers jumped out to a 6-0 lead and would not trail for the remainder of the first half. But despite falling behind early, Clark was able to hang around. MIT's largest lead of the game was only seven points, at 29-22 with 3:35 left in the first half. Cougars reserve small forward Slader Lyell hit two late threes to close that gap, and only three points separated the teams at the break.

Clark came out flying in the second half, taking advantage of its depth and applying pressure all over the court. Rookie point guard Patrick S. Sissman '10 was given the brutal task of breaking the Cougar onslaught of pressure in the full court press fueled by Clarke's fresh and deep bench.

MIT struggled to take care of the ball, failing on numerous occasions to advance the ball past half-court on offense. For the game, the Engineers committed 25 turnovers, leading to 30 Clark points.

The Engineers struggled particularly in the second half with perimeter defense, allowing the Cougars to go 7-14 from downtown led by Byron Roberts' off-the-bench effort. Roberts went 4-4 from behind the arc.

The Engineers failed to manage their time outs effectively in the second half, forsaking four opportunities to get some badly needed rest. The Engineers, clearly fatigued by the end of the second half, failed to score a field goal after the 4:44 mark, though they managed to hit a few free throws. Clark's victory salvaged a split of the season series between the two closely matched teams, and a post-game coin flip determined their seeding for the conference tournament. The Cougars came out on top again in the coin flip, dropping the Engineers to fifth in the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference. As a result, MIT must go on the road next week for the opening round of the conference tournament.



Julia N. Roberts '10 goes for the save during the women's ice hockey game on Friday against the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Women's Hockey Finishes Season With Tough Overtime Loss to RIT

**By Kristina M. Holton**

MIT women's ice hockey finished their most successful season yet with a bittersweet loss against Rochester Institute of Technology on Friday night, 3-2 in overtime.

In an intense game, the Engineers (5-14-0) matched the nation's fifth-ranked RIT Tigers (20-2-1) goal for goal, forcing an overtime with the game tied 2-2. Unlike some teams who rest their top line against MIT, the Tigers used their best skaters throughout, making the near-tie an even more impressive feat.

RIT controlled play throughout the overtime despite having to kill an MIT power play during the opening minutes. With 18 seconds remaining in the Engineer power play, Amanda P. Hunter '07 got called for checking.

The Tigers continued to attack during their power play, but MIT managed to kill it. With only 7 seconds to play both teams were back at full strength

and it looked like the game would end in a tie. But as Hunter cycled back into the defense, the Tigers' Isabelle Richard scored, ending the game 3-2.

RIT's Sarah Wilson started the scoring with an unassisted goal in the first period. The next goal came with just under six minutes to play in the second period, when Stephanie V. Brenman '09 took a shot from the point off a feed from Amanda P. Hunter '07 and Mary P. Harding '07. A scramble at the net ensued, and MIT edged the puck in for a power play goal.

The Tigers fired back with its own power play goal in the third period, with Jerica Young connecting on a pass from Shireen Irani and Stacey McConnell. MIT rallied once again with a power play at the end of the third, this time a five-hole shot (between the goalie's legs) by Hunter, assisted by Brenman. That goal made the score 2-2.

In the five minute overtime period, the Tigers controlled the puck and out-shot MIT 10-3. An assist from Courte-

nay Cooper gave Isabelle Richard the game-winning goal.

Goalie Julia N. Roberts '10 stopped 43 shots on goal from one of the hardest-shooting teams in the ECAC, ending the season 2-3-0. Seniors Hunter, Harding, and Barbara L. Peng '07 capped off their careers with 28, 21, and 4 goals in 56, 57 and 21 games respectively.

Harding commented on the game, saying, "I think surreal is the best word to describe it. This was, by far, the best game of hockey I have ever been a part of and an amazing way to end a career. Of course coming within two seconds of tying the 5th ranked team in the nation and seeing it slip away is heartbreaking, but I'll take that any day over what could have been a 5 or 8 goal differential game."

MIT's near win against RIT has gained the young team national recognition from fellow players.

This was Coach Danielle Holtschlag's second year as head coach and third at MIT.

Strong Freshmen Performances Buoy Track to Fifth Place at Regional Meet

**By Alisha Schor**  
*TEAM MEMBER*

The MIT women's indoor track and field team scored one of their highest finishes ever at the New England Division III regional meet on Saturday, accumulating 59 points to finish fifth out of 21 scoring teams, behind Williams (151 points), Tufts (109), Amherst (93), and Bowdoin (72.5).

"Before the meet I thought if we could get 60 points we'd break into the top five, and we scored 59 and ended up in fifth. Obviously top five was really a big goal, considering where we were a year ago at this time [13th place]," Head Coach Fletcher A. Brooks said.

One key to the team's success this year was a strong contingent of freshmen, including Margaret C. Leibovic '10, Amy R. Magnuson '10 and Maria J. Monks '10. In the 55m dash, Leibovic lowered her personal best and her own rookie record, running 7.63 seconds to come in seventh (championship meets score up to eight places per event).

Magnuson blazed to a third-place finish in the 55m hurdles, setting an MIT varsity record and setting an NCAA national provisional mark with her 8.42. Magnuson also scored in both horizontal jumps, coming in fourth and eighth in the triple and long jumps, respectively.

"Amy Magnuson was seeded at

8.81 [in the 55 hurdles] and ran 8.42. That's a ridiculous improvement and that was huge. She also had to step it up in the horizontal jumps both times to score, and she did. In the jumps I just said 'This is what you need, let's get it done,' and she did," Brooks said.

Already in possession of her own NCAA provisional mark (achieved in the 5k at the Boston University Valentine Invitational), Monks made her contribution in the form of two relays, running the anchor leg of both the distance medley relay and the 4x800m relay. Monks' 1600m split of the distance medley was an unofficial personal best at 5:07.

Another major point contributor was MIT's pole vaulting squad, arguably the strongest of any New England team. All three vaulters — Emily Hwang '09, Allison R. Brown '08, and co-captain Christine Fanchiang '07 — cleared 11 feet, 0 inches, which marked a personal record for Brown. Based on the number of misses before clearing, Hwang and Brown tied for fourth place, while Fanchiang placed second.

MIT was also able to garner some unexpected points in both throwing events, as Aline M. Thomas '08 and Allyson Randolph '10 both exceeded their seeds, placing third and sixth, respectively, in the shot put. Thomas also scored in the weight throw, taking fourth with a throw of 48-6.75.

On the track, events did not run quite up to the standard of the rest of the season, which has thus far produced five new varsity records. However, the three relays (distance medley, 4x200 and 4x800) produced excellent results, including an MIT varsity record in the 4x800 (9:41.68, seventh place) and a season-best in the 4x200 (1:49.97, third place).

This meet marked the last true team competition for the indoor track season, although some athletes will continue on individually or on relays in an attempt to achieve national qualifying marks. Next, the team is looking toward the beginning of the outdoor track season just after spring break, where the Engineers expect to be even stronger with the addition of some key outdoor events.



Boris Rasin '09 performs an L-seat on the still rings during Saturday's gymnastics meet against Temple University.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2007

Men's Volleyball vs. Lasell College

7:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Westfield State

7:00 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena